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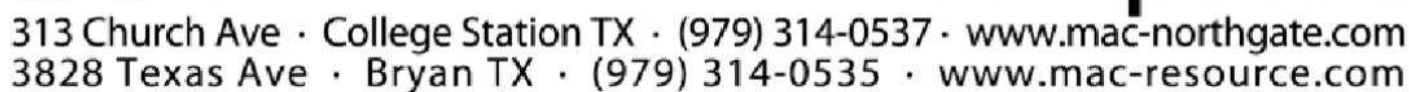
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On the Cover: Texas A&M senior quarterback Jerrod Johnson. Photo by Jason McConnell '01.



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publisher'snote

Howdy!

With this time of year typically comes a renewed sense of optimism about Aggie football, regardless of what happened the previous season. I know I'm guilty of it every August. I just can't help but believe that this is our year, each year. Well, most years anyway. This year is no different, but then again, maybe it is.

Has Texas A&M ever started a season with the preseason conference offensive and defensive players of the year? How long has it been since we were optimistic about the progress of the defense under a new coordinator? Have we ever had this much talent at the offensive skill positions at the same time? And finally, isn't it about time for us to finish a season without saying "wait till next year?"

Still, this may or may not be the year that the A&M program takes a huge step forward, but it's sure going to be fun to sit back and watch this team play. And with senior captains like Jerrod Johnson and Von Miller driving the ship, anything is possible. And by anything, I mean these 12 bold predictions by the AI staff:

1. Both Cyrus Gray and Ryan Swope will return at least one kickoff for a touchdown this season.
2. Every time the Aggies win the turnover battle, they'll win the game.
3. Christine Michael will run for over 1,000 yards.
4. The Aggies will beat Texas Tech in back-to-back seasons for the first time since 1993-94.
5. Ryan Tannehill will throw and catch a touchdown pass in the same game.
6. College Gameday will come to Aggieland for a game this season.
7. The Aggies will make a play on special teams that wins them a close game.
8. The Aggies will beat at least one out of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Nebraska.
9. Ryan Swope will be the team's leading receiver this season.
10. Jerrod Johnson will hold every major A&M passing record by the end of the year.
11. The defense will force at least 30 turnovers during the season.
12. The Aggies will celebrate Thanksgiving on their way home from Austin after beating t.u.

Gig'em Ags!

Brian '01

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Aggieland

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waterfall

Sophomore running back Christine Michael sprays his face with water during the first fall football practice. Aggieland was brutally hot during fall camp with three-digit temperatures becoming the norm. To counter the heat, the A&M football team spent most of their morning practices outside and went indoors for the afternoon. Photo by Brian Davis '01.





snapshot





face-off

Senior Von Miller and junior Jeff Fuller go head to head in the Aggie Drill before an August scrimmage. One of the most exciting parts of fall practice, the Aggie Drill is an intense, one-on-one test of strength and technique between an offensive and defensive player. Photo by Jason McConnell '01.

how about dat

Junior running back Cyrus Gray catches a pass in stride, besting junior linebacker Garrick Williams in a one-on-one receiving drill as new inside linebackers coach Dat Nguyen looks on. Coach Nguyen, working with Andrew Weaver below, has brought a new level of enthusiasm to the Aggie linebacking corps. Photos by Brian Davis '01.





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FRIDAY NIGHT LIGHTS

BY JEREMY KSIONDA '04 AND BRIAN DAVIS '01

As football season kicks off, the 2011 Texas A&M recruiting class is over halfway complete with verbal commitments from eleven prospects. Nine are from Texas and play high school football less than 220 miles away from their future home in Aggieland. Meanwhile, the two outliers are more than 1,200 miles away – in Reading, PA and Lauderdale Lakes, FL.

This fall, A&M fans have a chance to preview these future Aggies under the Friday night lights. We've compiled the schedules for each prospect. If you live near any of these stadiums or are planning any road trips this fall, we recommend you take the opportunity to get a glimpse of these future Aggies in action.

Editors Note: All schedules and venues are subject to change, so we recommend you verify any listed game before attending.



donnieBAGGS (LB)
6-1, 205

CLEAR SPRINGS (LEAGUE CITY, TX)
RECRUITER: WILLIAMS



howardMATTHEWS (DB)
6-2, 200

CLEAR SPRINGS (LEAGUE CITY, TX)
RECRUITER: TURNER

8/26	Pearland Dawson	Veteran's Memorial (League City, TX)
9/3	@ Bryan	Merrill Green Stadium (Bryan, TX)
9/11	@ Katy Cinco Ranch	Jack Rhodes Memorial Stadium (Katy, TX)
9/25	Pearland	Veteran's Memorial (League City, TX)
10/1	@ Alvin	Memorial Stadium (Alvin, TX)
10/8	Clear Brook	Veteran's Memorial (League City, TX)
10/15	Clear Lake	Veteran's Memorial (League City, TX)
10/22	@ Dickinson	Sam Vitanza Stadium (Dickinson, TX)
10/29	Clear Creek	Veteran's Memorial (League City, TX)
11/5	@ Brazoswood	Hopper Field (Freeport, TX)



taylorBERTOLET (K)
5-9, 165

EXETER TOWNSHIP (READING, PA)
RECRUITER: TOTH

9/3	Ephrata	Don Thomas Stadium (Reading, PA)
9/10	@ Blue Mountain	Eagles' Nest Stadium (Orwigsburg, PA)
9/17	Holy Name	Don Thomas Stadium (Reading, PA)
9/24	@ Reading	Gene L. Shirk Stadium (Reading, PA)
10/1	Muhlenberg	Don Thomas Stadium (Reading, PA)
10/8	@ Twin Valley	TVHS Stadium (Elverson, PA)
10/15	Pottsville Area	Don Thomas Stadium (Reading, PA)
10/22	@ Conrad Weiser	Conrad Weiser Stadium (Robesonia, PA)
10/29	Governor Mifflin	Don Thomas Stadium (Reading, PA)
11/5	@ Daniel Boone	Daniel Boone Stadium (Birdsboro, PA)



devontaBURNS (DB)
6-0, 200

MARTIN (ARLINGTON, TX)
RECRUITER: MCMILLIAN

8/26	Plano West	Cravens Field (Arlington, TX)
9/2	@ South Garland	Homer B. Johnson Stadium (Garland, TX)
9/10	Flower Mound	Cravens Field (Arlington, TX)
9/24	@ Bowie	Maverick Stadium (Arlington, TX)
10/1	@ Arlington	Maverick Stadium (Arlington, TX)
10/8	Sam Houston	Cravens Field (Arlington, TX)
10/15	@ North Crowley	North Crowley Stadium (Fort Worth, TX)
10/22	Arlington Lamar	Cravens Field (Arlington, TX)
10/29	@ Weatherford	Kangaroo Stadium (Weatherford, TX)
11/4	Fort Worth Paschal	Cravens Field (Arlington, TX)



josephCHEEK (OL)
6-7, 270

SEGUIN (SEGUIN, TX)
RECRUITER: ROSSLEY

8/26	Uvalde	Alamodome (San Antonio, TX)
9/2	@ Bastrop	Bastrop Memorial (Bastrop, TX)
9/10	San Antonio East Central	Matador Stadium (Seguin, TX)
9/17	@ New Braunfels Canyon	Cougar Stadium (New Braunfels, TX)
9/24	Austin Anderson	Matador Stadium (Seguin, TX)
10/7	@ San Antonio Cibola Steele	Cibola Steele Stadium (Cibola, TX)
10/15	@ Converse Judson	Rutledge Stadium (Converse, TX)
10/22	San Marcos	Matador Stadium (Seguin, TX)
10/29	@ New Braunfels	Unicorn Stadium (New Braunfels, TX)
11/5	San Antonio Wagner	Matador Stadium (Seguin, TX)

benCOMPTON (OL)
6-4, 310

FRIENDSWOOD (FRIENDSWOOD, TX)
RECRUITER: TOTH

8/27	@ Angleton	Wildcat Stadium (Angleton, TX)
9/3	@ West Orange	Abshire Stadium (Deer Park, TX)
9/10	@ Stratford	Tully Stadium (Houston, TX)
9/17	Channelview	Henry Winston Stadium (Friendswood, TX)
9/24	@ Galveston Ball	Kermit Courville Stadium (Galveston, TX)
10/1	Dawson	Henry Winston Stadium (Friendswood, TX)
10/8	@ La Marque	Etheredge Stadium (La Marque, TX)
10/15	Manvel Homecoming	Henry Winston Stadium (Friendswood, TX)
10/22	@ Santa Fe	Indian Stadium (Santa Fe, TX)
11/5	Texas City	Henry Winston Stadium (Friendswood, TX)



nathanGUTEKUNST (OL)
6-6, 290

ATASCOCITA (HUMBLE, TX)
RECRUITER: WILLIAMS

8/27	South Houston	Turner Stadium (Humble, TX)
9/3	@ Galveston Ball	Kermit Courville (Galveston, TX)
9/10	Fort Bend Hightower	Turner Stadium (Humble, TX)
9/17	@ La Porte	Bulldog Stadium (La Porte, TX)
9/24	The Woodlands	Turner Stadium (Humble, TX)
10/1	@ Lufkin	Abe Martin Stadium (Lufkin, TX)
10/8	Conroe Oak Ridge	Turner Stadium (Humble, TX)
10/16	@ Kingwood	Turner Stadium (Humble, TX)
10/22	The Woodlands College Park	Turner Stadium (Humble, TX)
10/29	@ Conroe	Buddy Moorhead (Conroe, TX)

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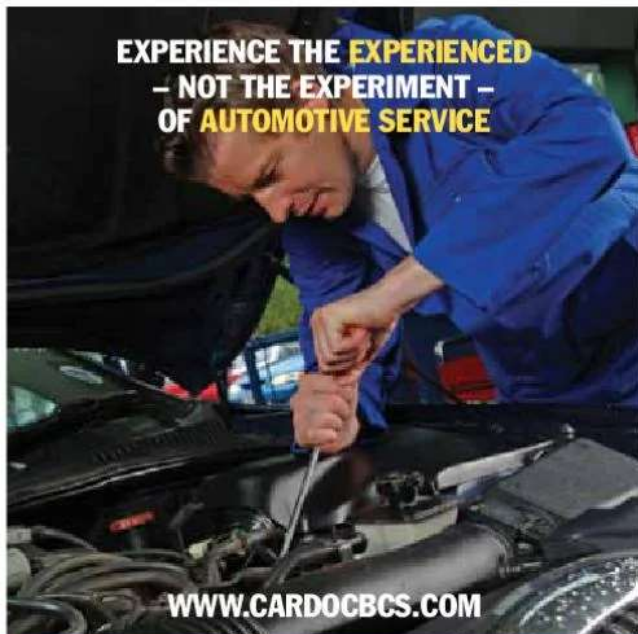
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shayvion **HATTEN** (DE)
6-4, 250

DAINGERFIELD (DAINGERFIELD, TX)
RECRUITER: JORDAN

8/27	Arp	Mickey Mayne (Daingerfield, TX)
9/3	@ Atlanta	Rabbit Stadium (Atlanta, TX)
9/9	Bruceville-Eddy (neutral)	Tiger Stadium (Corsicana, TX)
9/17	@ Pleasant Grove	Hawk Stadium (Texarkana, TX)
9/24	Gilmer	Mickey Mayne (Daingerfield, TX)
10/8	Hooks	Mickey Mayne (Daingerfield, TX)
10/15	@ Queen City	Smith-Wall (Queen City, TX)
10/22	Redwater	Mickey Mayne (Daingerfield, TX)
10/29	@ New Boston	Lion Stadium (New Boston, TX)
11/5	Prairiland	Mickey Mayne (Daingerfield, TX)



jonathon **HENDERSON** (ATH)
5-9, 185

LEANDER (LEANDER, TX)
RECRUITER: ROSSLEY

8/27	DeSoto	Bible Stadium (Leander, TX)
9/3	@ Converse Judson	Rutledge Stadium (Converse, TX)
9/10	@ Cedar Park	Gupton Stadium (Cedar Park, TX)
9/17	Austin Bowie	Bible Stadium (Leander, TX)
9/24	@ Georgetown	Georgetown (Georgetown, TX)
10/8	Round Rock	Bible Stadium (Leander, TX)
10/14	@ Round Rock Stony Point	The Palace (Austin, TX)
10/22	Pflugerville	Bible Stadium (Leander, TX)
10/29	@ Round Rock Westwood	Dragon Stadium (Round Rock, TX)
11/5	Round Rock McNeil	Bible Stadium (Leander, TX)



josh **STEWART** (DB)
5-11, 160

GUYER (DENTON, TX)
RECRUITER: NGUYEN

8/28	Waxahachie (neutral)	Standridge Stadium (Carrollton, TX)
9/6	Cedar Hill (neutral)	Cowboys Stadium (Arlington, TX)
9/17	Mesquite Horn	CH Collins Complex (Denton, TX)
9/24	Justin Northwest	CH Collins Complex (Denton, TX)
10/1	@ Coppell	Cowboy Stadium (Coppell, TX)
10/8	Keller Central	CH Collins Complex (Denton, TX)
10/15	@ Saginaw	Roughrider Stadium (Saginaw, TX)
10/21	Keller	CH Collins Complex (Denton, TX)
10/29	Keller Fossil Ridge	CH Collins Complex (Denton, TX)
11/5	@ Southlake Carol	Dragon Stadium (Southlake, TX)

shaun **WARD** (LB)
6-2, 225

BOYD ANDERSON (LAUDERDALE LAKES, FL)
RECRUITER: WILLIAMS

9/3	Cypress Bay	Boyd Anderson (Lauderdale Lakes, FL)
9/10	@ Northeast	Northeast (Oakland Park, FL)
9/16	St. Thomas Aquinas	Boyd Anderson (Lauderdale Lakes, FL)
9/24	Coconut Creek	Boyd Anderson (Lauderdale Lakes, FL)
10/1	@ Taravella	Coral Springs High (Coral Springs, FL)
10/9	Dillard	Lockhart Stadium (Fort Lauderdale, FL)
10/16	@ Deerfield Beach	Deerfield (Deerfield Beach, FL)
10/23	@ Blanche Ely	Lockhart Stadium (Fort Lauderdale, FL)
10/29	Douglas	Boyd Anderson (Lauderdale Lakes, FL)
11/5	@ Miramar	Miramar (Miramar, FL) AI

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going the distance

Loaded soccer team has everything it takes to go all the way to the top

BY JASON MCCONNELL '01

Disappointing. Heartbreaking. Sickening. Those are just a few of the print-friendly words used to describe the feeling when the 2009 season ended for the Texas A&M soccer program.

Not the season as a whole, mind you – the Aggies finished with a 15-7-3 record and advanced to the Sweet 16 for the 10th time in program history. That's certainly nothing to be disappointed about.

No, the gut-wrenching feeling came from the 2-1, double-overtime loss to top-seeded and fifth-ranked Florida State in the Sweet 16.

That left a bad taste in everyone's mouth. And you can bet it will be more than enough motivation to go all the way to the top this season. And the Aggies have what it takes to get there.



Head coach G Guerrieri returns 11 starters and 19 letterwinners from the 2009 squad that finished the season ranked 13th in the nation. The Aggies have one of the toughest rated schedules in the nation, competing against eight teams that received bids to the NCAA Championship a year ago.

It takes a lot of talent to compete with the best and to get to the top, and the Aggies are loaded with some of the best soccer players in the nation.

The talented-laden roster includes three key players who were forced to sit on the sidelines last season because of knee injuries – Amber Gnatzig (#4), Raven Tatum (#16) and Beth West (#10). The roster also includes three seniors who earned All-Big 12 honors in 2009 – Whitney Hooper (#6), Alyssa Mautz (#33) and Rachel Shipley (#7).

NINE QUESTIONS FOR THE ALL-BIG 12 SENIORS

What did you do this summer to prepare for the season?

RACHEL SHIPLEY (RS): I went back home and trained in Dallas for the summer. I also played with the US U-23 national team a few times. We went to Germany and England. That took up most of my summer. I really enjoyed that, a lot, but I missed these girls.

ALYSSA MAUTZ (AM): I went back home for the month of June and played with a WPSL team, the Saint Lewis Scott Gallagher Elite. I worked out with athletic republic and then I came back here in July to work out with the team.

WHITNEY HOOPER (WH): I worked soccer camps in College Station for pretty much the whole summer. I stayed down here, worked out and trained with a couple of the other girls that stayed here for the summer.

How would you describe the feeling after the double-overtime Sweet 16 loss last season?

AM: Awful.

RS: Heartbreaking. Very heartbreaking. I thought we had it. I thought we were playing great. We were on attack and all of a sudden, in a few seconds, they countered and scored that goal. It was just heartbreaking. Everything we had worked hard for that whole season had just ended in those few seconds and there was nothing we could do about it. It was just over. It was a sickening feeling.

AM: Especially when there was just two minutes left in the overtime.

RS: We knew if we went into penalty kicks, we would win it because we have great goalkeepers. We were just a few minutes away. It has happened before and it is the worst feeling in the world. It really motivates us for this year though.

AM: Definitely a disappointment.

How would you describe your emotions as you go into your final year of Aggie soccer?

AM: It's sad and nerve-racking, but exciting too.

WH: It's sad, but I'm excited because I believe this is our year. I feel it. It's going to be great. Especially with the eight of us seniors playing on the same field. It is going to be amazing. I am very excited, but it is sad because this is it.

RS: Especially with the girls that we have. We only have a few new girls coming in. Our team is pretty close as it is and bringing in two freshmen. I think we are going to be pretty strong. We all want it so bad. So bad. And we have come so close.

AM: We don't have too many injuries right now. We are all healthy, all coming back.

WH: This is the last time you can make your mark on other teams. It is overwhelming. It went by so fast. I remember my freshman year like it was yesterday and how nervous I was to get here. I have no words to explain how excited I am for this season.

What does it mean for the team to get Amber Gnatzig, Raven Tatum and Beth West back from injury this season?

RS: It's awesome. Especially in the midfield.

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WH: Our midfield, to me, is just ridiculous. They are so good. Everyone is different in their own way and they make plays. It is amazing. Everyone makes each other get better. Our midfield is so competitive because everyone is so good. Everyone is on the same level. If a person goes out, another person comes in that can do the same job. To have that depth in our midfield against other teams will make us unstoppable.

What are your strengths on the field?

RS: Well, Hooper is super fast. She is all over the place.

WH: Mautz is hustle and endurance.

WH: And Shipley is just amazing.

How tough is the Big 12 going to be this year?

AM: Missouri has been, for our last few years, one of our toughest conference opponents.

RS: It has always been a really good game.

AM: Oklahoma State is a good team – they are very physical.

RS: Every game is a challenge. Everyone comes out hard against us.

How would you describe Coach G in one word?

RS: Intelligent. Champion.

AM: G is G. He can be goofy at times.

WH: He puts the organization first. He worries about the fans – getting us out there promoting. He's very well-rounded. He touches all bases of soccer. Fans, kids clinics and stuff. He

does a great job trying to build this program. Any word that describes that.

What are the keys to this being a successful season?

RS: Staying focused every single game. Every game matters. Especially in the beginning of the season. You might not think they are as important because they aren't conference games, but our schedule will effect what seed we get at the end. We want home field because our fans are awesome and that makes such a difference. We want to be sure we take every game seriously. After a big win, every game matters. You can't take off for a second. Staying focused all season.

AM: Come to practice early. Work hard at every practice and bring it like it is a game.

WH: Play as a team. As far as communication goes, we are so loud on the field – it is scary to play against us. Communication, working as a team, trusting your teammates.

AM: Trust your teammates to do their part on and off the field.

WH: Take accountability.

What do you want to be remembered for when your career is over?

WH: I'm sure everyone will remember me as being speedy.

AM: A person that leaves everything on the field. Works hard all the time and scores goals.

RS: To be called champions. National Champions. I want us all to be remembered as that. **NY**

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Go ahead and label them the underdogs. They've heard it before and they'll hear it again. And that's exactly what the Texas A&M volleyball team is going to be this season – in the beginning, at least.

Laurie Corbelli, who is entering her 18th season as the Aggies' head coach, returns just seven players from last year's team that went 20-11, advanced to the NCAA regional semifinals and ranked No. 21 in the final poll.

Corbelli must replace six seniors, including All-Americans Sarah Ammerman and Mary Batis, both four-year starters. Highlighting the list of returners is junior Kelsey Black (#2), a preseason All-Big 12 selection. After serving in a utility-type role each of her first two seasons, Black enters this season as a likely starter at outside hitter.

Meanwhile, the sophomore trio of Lindsey Miller (#14), Alisia Kastmo (#10) and Tori Mellinger (#1) return after starting the majority of last season as true freshmen on a senior-laden team. Middle blockers Miller, a member of the 2009 Big 12 All-Freshman Team, and Kastmo led the starters in hitting percentage as freshmen last year. Mellinger became the team's designated libero in the fourth match of her rookie campaign and led the Ags with 3.45 digs per set in Big 12 play.

THIRTEEN QUESTIONS FOR THE AGS' SOPHOMORE TRIO

What did you do this summer to prepare for the season?

TORI MELLINGER (TM): We all do the same workouts on our own during the first half of the summer. We lift weights three times a week and run twice a week. In the second half, we all came back to go to summer school and we have open gyms two to three times a week and workout with our strength training coach.

LINDSEY MILLER (LM): In open gym, we play 6-on-6 or 3-on-3 just to get as much game-like situations as we can.

Who is going to step up to replace last year's senior leadership?

ALISIA KASTMO (AK): We have a good group of juniors who already showed a lot of leadership this summer.

TM: And we have a lot of court experience that can help the newcomers.

What are the keys to success this season?

LM: I feel like we're being looked at as the underdog, so we have to use that to our advantage and work even harder. We need to stick the basics.

TM: We're going to have to learn how to fight like hell and overcome that.

UNDER THE RADAR

Sensational sophomore trio aims to pick up right where last year's seniors left off

BY BRIAN DAVIS '01



Why did you choose to play at A&M?

LM: I chose A&M because it just felt right. Laurie [Corbelli] has been a family friend of mine for a while. I loved all the girls and the fantastic atmosphere. It was just the right place for me.

TM: I knew I was coming to A&M from the start. I've always played volleyball, but didn't know that would be an option in college. I just wanted to come here to be an Aggie. The fact that I get to play volleyball for A&M as well is just unbelievable.

AK: I felt good about the team and the coaches. It felt like home.

Did you know each other before A&M?

LM: We have a picture from a championship game of a tournament that Tori and I played together. We are standing one person away from each other in the picture, but had no clue who each other was.

TM: It's a really awesome picture. We both look terrible in it, but it's too funny to not show people.

What are your strengths on the court?

LM: A huge asset with Tori is her serve/receive. She loves it and it is a strong part of her game. She's also really quick on the court. She comes out of nowhere. And she has really good communication and court presence. She's always telling people what's open and what shots to look for.

TM: Obviously Alisia is pretty tall. She just puts

up a wall. In practice, I hate looking across the net and seeing that I have to hit against her because her block is incredible. And her attack is huge too.

LM: And she can hit it wherever she wants.

TM: She can hit over blocks, under blocks, through blocks.

TM: Lindsey is really quick. She has an awesome line side shot. She's hit a few girls in the face before – on camera. She's just fast. She's like the Road Runner.

Is spiking someone in the face a little extra satisfying?

LM: Oh yeah. It's awesome. There's nothing better. I never know how to react to it though. I want to be happy, but I also feel a little sorry – not really.

TM: However, it's not so fun to get hit in the face like I have. You just have to laugh it off.

Were you surprised with how much you played as true freshmen last season?

LM: It was a surprise. Alisia and I knew there was a position open in the middle, so we thought one of us had an opportunity to play. There was a lot of good competition for playing time. I didn't expect to play that much as a freshman, but it was awesome.

TM: For me, I was just pumped to

be here. I just wanted to work hard and show that I had a reason to be in the gym at all. I was taken aback by the fact that I earned a spot on the court. It was an awesome opportunity. It just goes to show if you work hard, you can do it.

Is that something you are going to pass on to the freshmen?

TM: I don't know about that. Maybe at other positions (laughs). Of course.

What are some of the key games on your schedule?

LM: Our home conference opener against Texas is a big one.

TM: I'm also pumped to play LSU. We beat them in the 2nd round of the NCAA Tournament last year in their house. We are going to face some good competition early.

With Nebraska departing for the Big 10, do the matches against them have special meaning this year?

LM: I think so. We love playing them because they have a fantastic program. Playing at their gym is awesome. They have some of the greatest fans. It's just a great atmosphere to play in. It's going to be a lot different without them.

TM: Playing at Nebraska is an experience you don't get anywhere else. They have an older fan base that comes to cheer for volleyball. They cheer for everybody. And I love that we beat them before they got out of the Big 12. Let's beat them again.

Do you have any nicknames?

LM: On the team, we have Alisia, Elise, Allie, Allie, Kelsey, Kelsey and Chelsea, so we have to nickname people.

AK: I started as "Al," but that fizzled. Then I went to "Alise" because it's short for Alisia. Then we got a transfer named Elise, and I'm still "Alise," so it's very confusing.

LM: We call Tori her "Mells" for her last name.

TM: We call one Allie "Marge," which sucks for her, but it's sticking and I'm loving it.

LM: We call the other Allie "Bobs."

How would you describe your coaches in one word?

LM: "Technical" for John [Corbelli].

TM: "B-lockers" for Laurie (laughs). We were in the locker room at Texas Tech last season and Laurie was trying to explain to us that she wanted us to be strong on the block. She said don't be towels, as she was whipping a towel around. Then she said, "Be like lockers. Get it? B-lockers. Blockers." **AK**



BRIAN DAVIS '01

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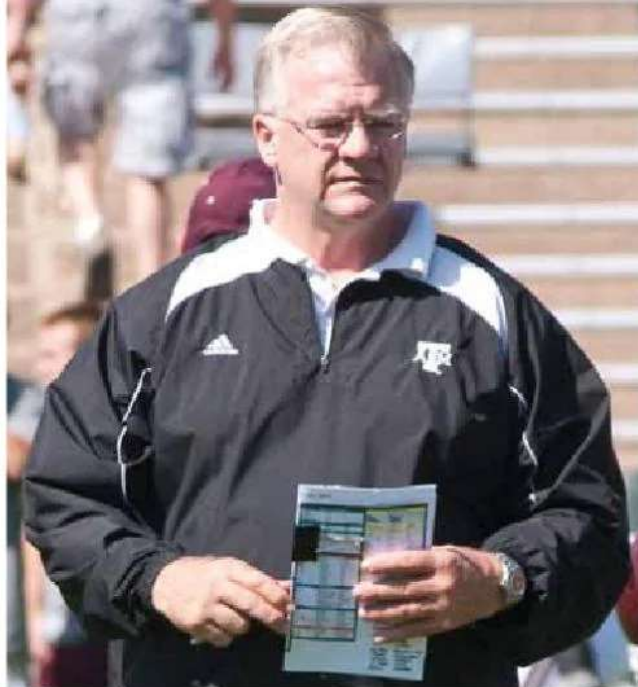
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TEXAS A&M **FOOTBALL** **GUIDE** 2010

BY JEREMY KSIONDA '04 AND BRIAN DAVIS '01





MIKE SHERMAN (HEAD COACH)
3RD SEASON AS HEAD COACH OF TEXAS A&M
RECORD: 10-15 (5-11 IN BIG 12) BOWL RECORD: 0-1

Cautious optimism. That's the best to describe the feeling going into Mike Sherman's third season at Texas A&M. In two years on the field, his teams have more ugly losses than big wins. However, they have showed continued improvement and this season will feature some of the best talent in the conference. And while they've yet to coach a game, Sherman's hires on defense this offseason appear to be home runs and likely will determine the team's success in this pivotal year of the rebuilding process.

OFFENSE [QUARTERBACK]

The Coach

TOM ROSSLEY (3rd year)
The FootballScoop Quarterbacks Coach of the Year in 2009.



The Starter

JERROD JOHNSON (#1)
6-5, 245, SR-3L
Johnson is the unquestioned leader of the team and his play will decide how good the Aggie offense can be this season.

First off the Bench

RYAN TANNEHILL (#17)
6-4, 219, JR-2L
Tannehill will see plenty of action at wide receiver this fall while serving as the backup to Johnson at quarterback.



OFFENSE [OVERVIEW]

Jerrod Johnson. Jeff Fuller. Ryan Tannehill. Christine Michael. Uzoma Nwachukwu. Cyrus Gray. These are more than just household names among the Aggie faithful. They represent what's arguably the most talented group of skill position players to hit Kyle Field in over a decade.

All eyes will be on Aggieland this season, as the A&M offense looks to be the last of the high-powered offensive attacks of the Big 12 left standing. Mike Leach is out in Lubbock, Colt McCoy and Sam Bradford are gone at Texas and Oklahoma, and Oklahoma State is replacing both Dez Bryant and Zac Robinson. And while there's plenty of star power to answer the call, there are also plenty of holes to fill in order to go up against some of the league's staunch defenses in 2010.

The Aggies must replace three starters along the offensive line, and will have to rely on several true freshmen in order to do so. True freshmen tackles Luke Joeckel and Jake Matthews might be stars in the making, but going up against 22-year-old men is a tall task for 18-year-olds who will just be getting their feet wet in college football. If offensive line coach Jim Turner can gel this unit the way he did in 2009, the sky's the limit for the Aggie offense this season.



Key Battle

MATT JOECKEL (#16)	VS.	JAMIELL SHOWERS (#3)
6-4, 227, FR-HS	MEASURABLES	6-1, 220, FR-HS
Arlington HS (Arlington, TX)	HIGH SCHOOL	Shoemaker HS (Killeen, TX)
3,145 YDS and 40 TDS as a senior	NUMBERS	2,150 YDS and 22 TDS as a junior
District Offensive Player of the Year as a senior	ACCOLADES	Honorable mention all-state as a junior
Twin brother, Luke, is a freshman lineman on the Aggie football team	NOTABLE	Was a highly touted recruit despite missing his senior season with an injury
EDGE: Joeckel. Showers appeared to have a leg up halfway through fall camp, but Joeckel responded well in this ongoing battle. It will be interesting to see if either or both players lose their redshirts this season.		

Records Watch

CAREER YARDS	
Reggie McNeal (2002-05).....	6,992
Corey Pullig (1992-95).....	6,846
Kevin Murray (1983-86).....	6,506
> Jerrod Johnson (2007-).....	6,064
CAREER COMPLETION PERCENTAGE	
Stephen McGee (2005-08).....	59.5%
> Jerrod Johnson (2007-).....	59.3%
CAREER COMPLETIONS	
Corey Pullig (1992-95).....	560
Kevin Murray (1983-86).....	534
> Jerrod Johnson (2007-).....	492

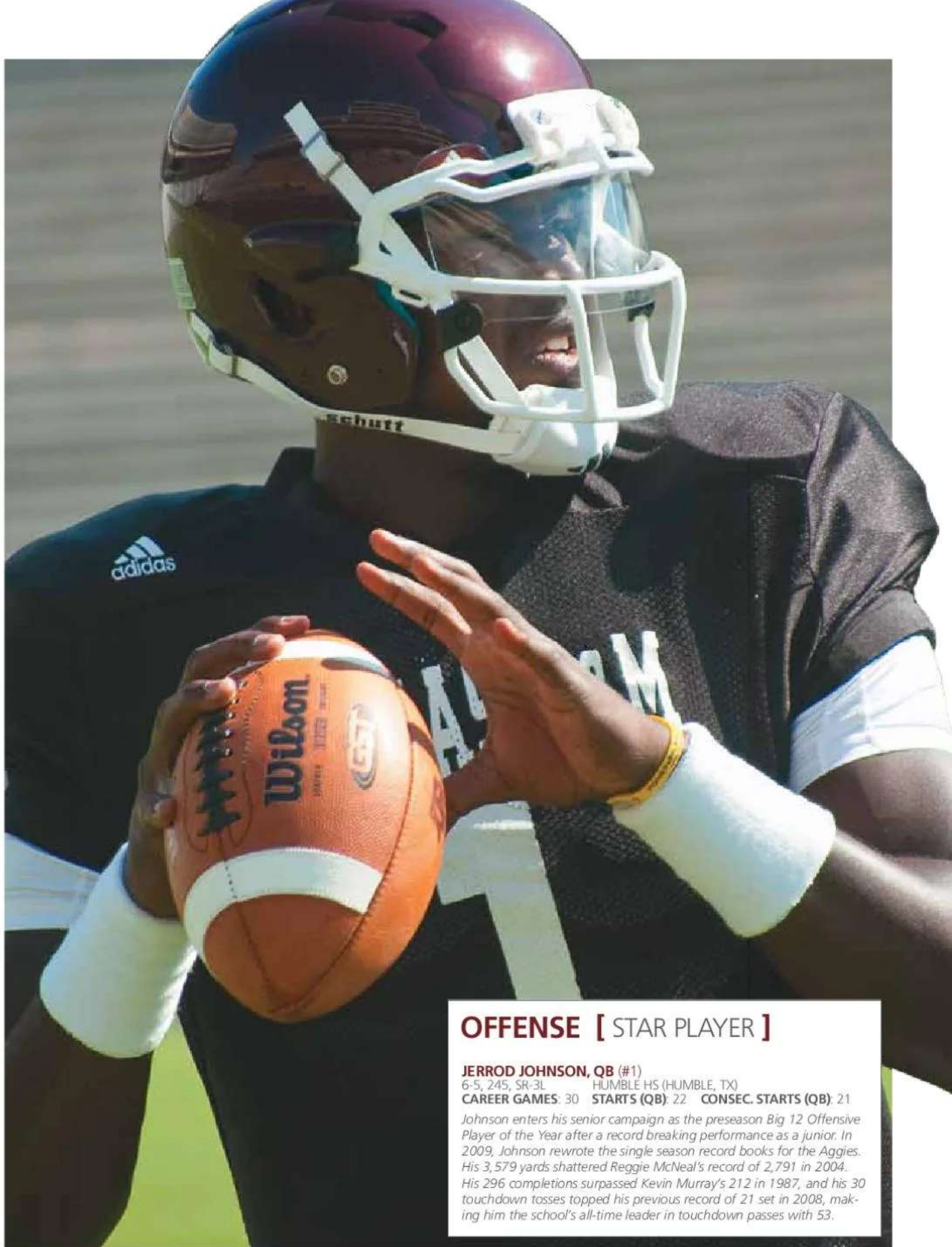
Preseason Grade

B+

Could be an A+ if Johnson shows he's fully recovered from offseason shoulder surgery.

Top 10 QBs of All Time

- 1. COREY PULLIG** (1992-95)
Won more games than any A&M QB.
- 2. KEVIN MURRAY** (1983-86)
Finished with a 25-6-1 record as a starter.
- 3. BUCKY RICHARDSON** (1987-91)
Finished 10th in Heisman race as a senior.
- 4. JERROD JOHNSON** (2007-)
Has a chance to climb to the top this season.
- 5. EDD HARGETT** (1966-68)
An Aggie QB legend.
- 6. GARY KUBIAK** (1979-82)
- 7. STEPHEN MCGEE** (2005-08)
- 8. REGGIE MCNEAL** (2002-05)
- 9. BRANNDON STEWART** (1996-98)
- 10. RANDY MCCOWN** (1996-99)



OFFENSE [STAR PLAYER]

JERROD JOHNSON, QB (#1)

6-5, 245, SR-3L HUMBLE HS (HUMBLE, TX)

CAREER GAMES: 30 **STARTS (QB):** 22 **CONSEC. STARTS (QB):** 21

Johnson enters his senior campaign as the preseason Big 12 Offensive Player of the Year after a record breaking performance as a junior. In 2009, Johnson rewrote the single season record books for the Aggies. His 3,579 yards shattered Reggie McNeal's record of 2,791 in 2004. His 296 completions surpassed Kevin Murray's 212 in 1987, and his 30 touchdown tosses topped his previous record of 21 set in 2008, making him the school's all-time leader in touchdown passes with 53.



OFFENSE [STRENGTH]

When it comes to pointing out the strength of the Aggie offense, it was hard not to pick senior quarterback Jerrod Johnson. This group of wide receivers, however, could be the best A&M has ever seen.

Jeff Fuller is possibly the most physically imposing specimen on the Aggie roster, and when the ball is in the air, it's his for the taking. Sophomore Uzoma "EZ" Nwachukwu doesn't have the height of Fuller, but his combination of size, speed and outstanding leaping ability is unmatched. Look for him to build upon his freshman season that brought postseason accolades. EZ will likely split time with senior Terrence McCoy, who had a great spring and continued his solid play in fall camp.

Another sophomore, Ryan Swope, has been picked by many to be one of the team's breakout players in 2010. If he doubles as the team's starting kickoff return man, there's a good chance No. 25 will lead the team in all-purpose yards this season. Swope's backup, Kenric McNeal, made the most of his opportunity at the beginning of fall camp when Swope went down with an injury, catching everything in his sight and showing off his speed in the open field.

True freshman Nate Askew turned heads the moment he stepped on campus, and is a likely candidate to see the field as a receiver and punt returner. And finally, despite getting the majority of his reps at quarterback, Ryan Tannehill is still one of the most dangerous weapons among this stout receiving corps. Like Fuller, Tannehill operates on another level, and is simply too talented to keep on the sideline.

As a whole, this is a unit with the proven talent and depth to earn national attention this season.



OFFENSE [WIDE RECEIVER]

The Coach

TROY WALTERS (1st year)
The 1999 Biletnikoff Award winner joined the staff this summer when Steve Kragthorpe resigned.



The Starters

JEFF FULLER (#8)
6-4, 215, JR-2L
Fuller's sophomore season was interrupted by a broken leg. Expect big things in his junior campaign.

UZOMA NWACHUKWU (#7)
6-0, 194, SO-1L
Nwachukwu started every game last season, but he only gets this spot if he's able to hold off senior Terrence McCoy.

RYAN SWOPE (#25)
6-0, 202, SO-1L
If Swope stays healthy, he has a good chance to be the Aggies' leading receiver this season.

First off the Bench

TERRENCE MCCOY (#11)
6-4, 213, SR-3L
If McCoy is not the first receiver off the bench, it's because he's starting in place of Uzoma Nwachukwu.

In the Rotation

NATE ASKEW (FR-HS, #9), **BRANDAL JACKSON** (SO-1L, #4), **KENRIC MCNEAL** (SO-1L, #5), **RYAN TANNEHILL** (JR-2L, #17)

Key Battle

TERRENCE MCCOY (#11)	VS.	UZOMA "EZ" NWACHUKWU (#7)
6-4, 213, SR-3L	MEASURABLES	6-0, 194, SO-1L
7 REC, 77 YDS	LAST SEASON	40 REC, 708 YDS, 6 TDS
32 REC, 331 YDS, 2 TDS	CAREER STATS	40 REC, 708 YDS, 6 TDS
6 REC, 67 YDS, 1 TD (Iowa State, 2008)	BEST GAME	8 REC, 141 YDS (Oklahoma State, 2009)
Has played in 34 games with 8 starts	NOTABLE	Scored four TDS on four touches (3 catches, 1 run) against Utah State in 2009
EDGE: Nwachukwu. McCoy moved to the top of the depth chart after a solid spring and has been battling with Nwachukwu ever since. But EZ started every game last season, so it's still his job to lose.		

Records Watch

CAREER TOUCHDOWNS	
Bob Long (1966-68)	19
> Jeff Fuller (2008-)	16
CAREER RECEIVING YARDS	
Terrence Murphy (2001-04)	2,600
Bethel Johnson (1999-02)	1,740
Jamaar Taylor (2001-03)	1,705
Tony Harrison (1990-93)	1,576
Albert Connell (1995-96)	1,525
Jason Carter (2002-05)	1,457
> Ryan Tannehill (2008-)	1,453

Preseason Grade

A+
The talent and depth at wide receiver should cause nightmares for opposing defensive coordinators this season.

Top 10 WRs of All Time

- 1. TERRENCE MURPHY** (2001-04)
T-Murph rewrote the A&M record books.
- 2. ROBERT FERGUSON** (2000)
Was a monster in only season at A&M.
- 3. BETHEL JOHNSON** (1998-02)
Second to Murphy in career receptions.
- 4. ALBERT CONNELL** (1995-96)
Had 18 receptions in a single game.
- 5. KEN MCCLEAN** (1962-65)
On receiving end of "Texas Special" in 1965.
- 6. JAMAAR TAYLOR** (2001-03)
- 7. TONY HARRISON** (1990-93)
- > **8. RYAN TANNEHILL** (2008-)
- 9. ROD HARRIS** (1985-88)
- > **10. JEFF FULLER** (2008-)

OFFENSE [WEAKNESS]

Mike Sherman's 2010 offensive line haul was one for the ages. Unfortunately, each of the highly touted freshmen will still be just that – freshmen – this season. Even so, Coach Sherman has alluded to the fact that as many as three of the freshmen will see the field this fall.

Luke Joeckel locked down the starting left tackle position this spring and will be tasked with protecting Jerrod Johnson's blind side. Jake Matthews, son of the great Bruce Matthews, has lived up to his high billing thus far and beat out sophomore Brian Thomas for the starting job at right tackle towards the end of fall practice.

In the middle, the Aggies are fairly stable, as junior Evan Eike and sophomore Patrick Lewis are returning starters who look poised to build upon their strong play toward the end of last season. Senior Matt Allen has held down the starter's role at center, but Thomas is knocking at his door. Allen was beaten out by both Eike and Lewis at guard last year, so it will be interesting to see if he can hold his own in 2010. All in all, while this unit has shown potential, it's also very inexperienced without a lot of established depth. In order for the abundance of talent at the skill positions to shine, this young unit will need to come together quickly.

OFFENSE [TIGHT END]

The Starter

HUTSON PRIOLEAU (#80)
6-4, 251, FR-RS
Prioleau is the Ags' most complete tight end with impressive blocking and receiving abilities.

First off the Bench

KENNY BROWN (#15)
6-3, 227, SR-3L
Brown has been a special teams standout for three seasons.

Contributors

NEHEMIAH HICKS (#87)
6-4, 248, FR-HS
There's still a chance Hicks will redshirt, but it's looking more likely that he will play this year.

MICHAEL LAMOTHE (#21)
6-3, 231, SO-1L
Appeared in 12 games as a true freshman last season, primarily on special teams.

Position Grade C+

Prioleau has the talent, but no experience to go with it yet.

Top 4 TEs of All Time

- 1. ROD BERNSTINE (1983-86)**
Holds the record for most receptions in a season.
- 2. DAN CAMPBELL (1995-98)**
Was a team leader and fan favorite.
- 3. MARTELLUS BENNETT (2005-07)**
Fifth all time in receptions despite only playing three seasons.
- 4. GREG SCHORP (1990-93)**
Received honorable mention All-American recognition as a senior.



OFFENSE [OFFENSIVE LINE]

The Coach

JIM TURNER (3rd year)
The Boston native and former Marine Officer is a great motivator.



The Starters

MATT ALLEN, C (#70)
6-2, 295, SR-1L
The former LSU transfer made the move from guard to center in the offseason.

EVAN EIKE, LG (#65)
6-4, 304, JR-2L
The Bryan native has been a solid guard and is the most experienced returning lineman.

LUKE JOECKEL, LT (#76)
6-6, 304, FR-HS
The prototypical left tackle arrived in the spring and quickly locked down the starting job.

PATRICK LEWIS, RG (#61)
6-2, 303, SO-1L
Earned freshman All-American honors last season, starting nine games as a true freshman.

JAKE MATTHEWS, RT (#75)
6-5, 295, FR-HS
The true freshman arrived this summer as good as advertised and battled for the starting job at right tackle, beating out Brian Thomas.

First off the Bench

BRIAN THOMAS (#71)
6-3, 303, SO-SQ
Will be the sixth man for the Aggie o-line unless he takes a starting job first.

Key Battle

MATT ALLEN (#70)	VS.	BRIAN THOMAS (#71)
6-2, 295, SR-1L LSU/Klein Collins HS (Spring, TX) Second-team Academic All-Big 12 honoree last season Transferred from LSU following the spring semester in 2008	MEASURABLES HIGH SCHOOL ACCOLADES NOTABLE	6-3, 303, SO-SQ Pearland HS (Pearland, TX) Unanimous first-team all-district offensive lineman as a senior (2007) Appeared in 12 games last season, primarily on special teams
EDGE: Allen. Thomas spent the majority of fall camp battling for the starting job at right tackle before losing out to Jake Matthews, while Allen was taking all of the reps as first team center. However, Thomas could challenge for the starting job, especially if Allen struggles.		

In the Two-Deep

DANNY BAKER (JR-2L, #55), JARVIS HARRISON (FR-HS, #51), SHEP KLINKE (FR-HS, #77), CEDRICK OGBUEHI (FR-HS, #63)

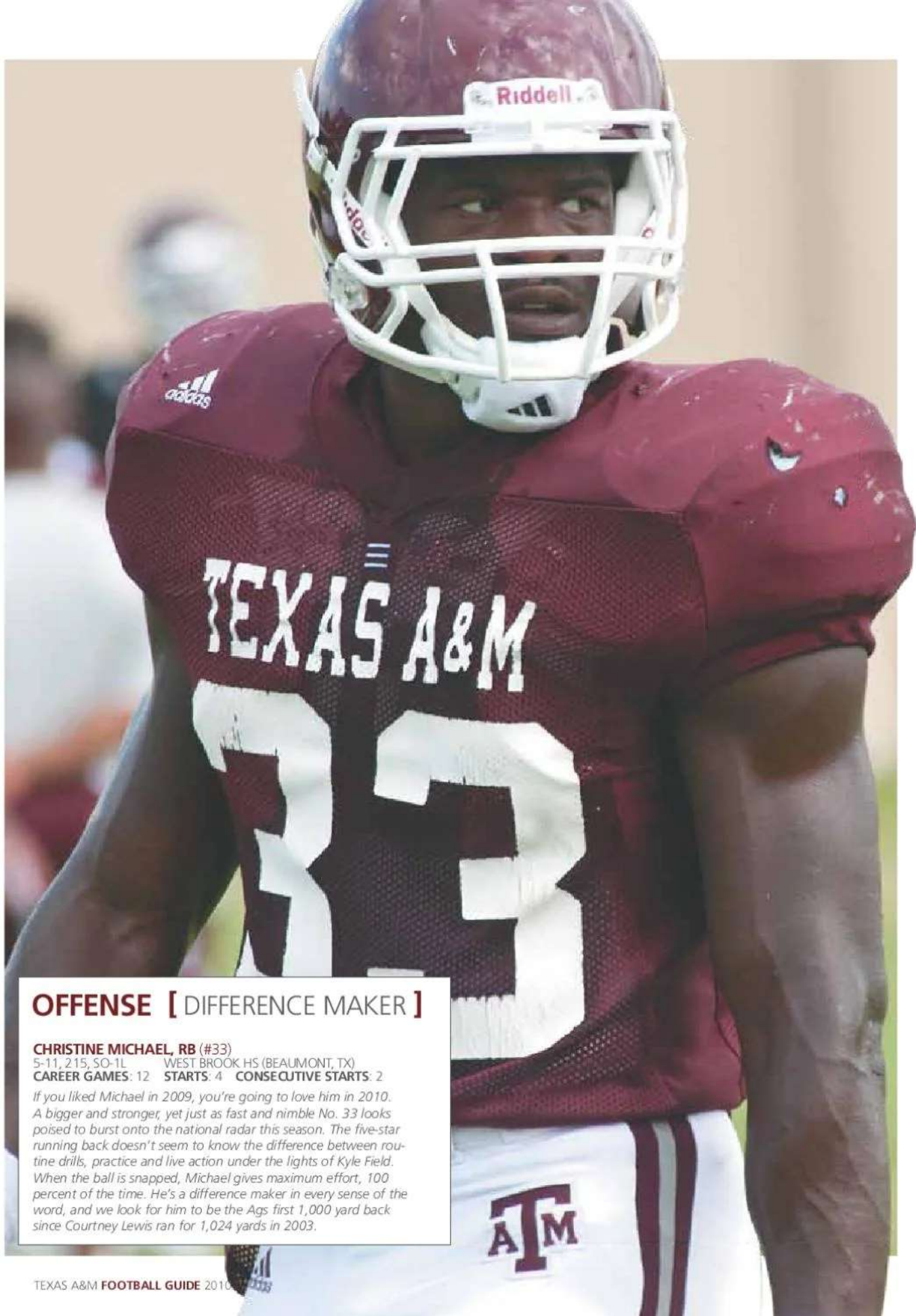


Preseason Grade C+

There is more talent than last year but a lot less experience. If the young guys grow up fast, this could be the surprise unit on the team.

Top 5 OL of All Time

- 1. MARSHALL ROBNETT (1937-1940)**
Finished ninth in Heisman race as a senior.
- 2. JOE ROUTH (1934-37)**
All-American as a junior and senior.
- 3. RICHMOND WEBB (1986-89)**
Ninth overall pick in the 1990 NFL Draft.
- 4. CHARLIE KRUEGER (1954-57)**
Two-time All-American at tackle.
- 5. JOE BOYD (1936-39)**
Co-captain of the 1939 National Champions.



OFFENSE [DIFFERENCE MAKER]

CHRISTINE MICHAEL, RB (#33)

5-11, 215, SO-1L WEST BROOK HS (BEAUMONT, TX)

CAREER GAMES: 12 STARTS: 4 CONSECUTIVE STARTS: 2

If you liked Michael in 2009, you're going to love him in 2010. A bigger and stronger, yet just as fast and nimble No. 33 looks poised to burst onto the national radar this season. The five-star running back doesn't seem to know the difference between routine drills, practice and live action under the lights of Kyle Field. When the ball is snapped, Michael gives maximum effort, 100 percent of the time. He's a difference maker in every sense of the word, and we look for him to be the Ags first 1,000 yard back since Courtney Lewis ran for 1,024 yards in 2003.

OFFENSE [FIVE NEW FACES TO KNOW]



NATE ASKEEW, WR (#9)

A US Army All-American Bowl participant and standout at San Antonio Madison HS a year ago, Nate Askeew managed to work his way into a deep and talented Aggie receiving corps as a true freshman, and will likely see the field early as a punt returner.

NEHEMIAH HICKS, TE (#87)

Nehemiah Hicks brings an added element of athleticism to the tight end position, and will probably be too talented to keep off the field this fall. Hicks has the most upside of any tight end not named Martellus Bennett to arrive in Aggieland in over a decade, and could even challenge Bennett's numbers in the record books by the time he leaves campus.

LUKE JOECKEL, OL (#76)

Even though Joeckel arrived last spring, he's technically a new face to the 2010 Aggie football team. Take a good look at his mugshot,

because that's the only semblance of a freshman he portrays. Joeckel looks like a seasoned veteran out there, and is a sure lock to man one of the starting tackle positions for years to come.

JAKE MATTHEWS, OL (#75)

The most heralded member of the recruiting class of 2010 and the son of an NFL Hall of Famer, Jake Matthews has been as good as advertised thus far. After spending time at both left and right tackle during fall camp, Matthews is too good to sideline this fall.

JAMEILL SHOWERS, QB (#3)

With luck, Showers won't see the field any time soon. But keep a close eye on him during warm-ups prior to kickoff on Saturdays at Kyle Field this fall. The freshman gunslinger from Killeen possesses an absolute cannon for an arm, and could be the quarterback of the future for the Aggies.



OFFENSE [RUNNING BACK]

The Coach

RANDY JORDAN (3rd year)
A former NFL running back, Jordan's unit has been consistently strong.



The Starter

CHRISTINE MICHAEL (#33)
5-11, 215, SO-1L
Michael is arguably the most talented player on campus and is poised for a breakout season.

First off the Bench

CYRUS GRAY (#32)
5-10, 196, JR-2L
Gray would start every game for just about any other Big 12 school and will be a key contributor for the Ags this season regardless of whether he's in the starting lineup or not.

Contributors

BRADLEY STEPHENS (#20)
5-10, 201, JR-2L
Stephens should get more carries this season if he continues to improve his ball security.

BEN MALENA (#23)
5-8, 195, FR-HS
Malena is a redshirt candidate, but still could find himself on the field this fall for depth.

MISTER JONES (#27)
6-2, 210, FR-HS
He will likely redshirt unless the Ags struggle in short yardage situations and need a big back like Jones to pound out the tough yards.

Key Battle

CYRUS GRAY (#32)	VS.	CHRISTINE MICHAEL (#33)
5-10, 196, JR-2L	MEASURABLES	5-11, 215, SO-1L
757 YDS, 5 TDS	LAST SEASON	844 YDS, 10 TDS
1,120 YDS, 6 TDS	CAREER STATS	844 YDS, 10 TDS
131 YDS, 3 TDS (Texas Tech, 2009)	BEST GAME	121 YDS, 2 TDS (Texas Tech, 2009)
Led the team and set a freshman record with 1,592 all-purpose yards in 2009	NOTABLE	Big 12 Offensive Freshman of the Year in 2009
EDGE: Michael. Gray has more experience and is a more complete running back at this point, but Michael is just on another level when it comes to running the football.		

Preseason Grade

A-

Running back is second only to wide receiver as a team strength, but the depth is a slight concern after some unexpected attrition during fall camp.



Top 10 RBs of All Time

1. **JOHN DAVID CROW** (1955-57)
The lone Aggie Heisman winner.
2. **JOHN KIMBROUGH** (1938-40)
Heisman runner-up and two-time All-American.
3. **DARREN LEWIS** (1987-90)
Over 1,000 yards more than any other back.
4. **CURTIS DICKEY** (1976-79)
Second in the record books behind Lewis.
5. **LEELAND MCELROY** (1993-95)
One of the fastest in college football history.
6. **BOB SMITH** (1949-51)
7. **GREG HILL** (1991-93)
8. **RODNEY THOMAS** (1991-94)
9. **GEORGE WOODARD** (1975-79)
10. **JORVORSKIE LANE** (2005-08)

TEXAS A&M FOOTBALL [PROJECTED DEPTH CHART]

DEFENSIVE COACHES

Tim DeRuyter – Defensive Coordinator
Terrell Williams – Defensive Line
Dot Nguyen – Inside Linebackers
Nick Toth – Outside Linebackers
Charles McMillian – Defensive Backs

#2 Steven Campbell
(SO-1L)
#21 Steven Terrell
(SO-1L)

X
FS

#4 Toney Hurd Jr.
(FR-HS)
#1 Trent Hunter
(JR-2L)

X
SS

#23 Dominique Patterson
(FR-HS)

#8 Garrick Williams
(JR-2L)

X
ILB

#18 Kyle Mangan
(SO-1L)

#37 Michael Hodges
(SR-1L)

X
ILB

#11 Jonathan Stewart
(SO-1L)

#10 Sean Porter
(SO-1L)

X
OLB

#22 Dustin Harris
(SO-1L)

#5 Coryell Judie
(JR-RS)

X
CB

#3 Lionel Smith
(JR-1L)

#7 Terrence Frederick
(JR-2L)

X
CB

#94 Demontre Moore
(FR-HS)

#90 Von Miller
(SR-3L)

X
JOKER

#90 Ben Bass
(JR-SQ)

#77 Lucas Patterson
(SR-3L)

X
RDE

#92 Jonathan Mathis
(JR-TR)

#19 Eddie Brown
(JR-2L)

X
NT

#92 Kirby Ennis
(SO-1L)

#83 Tony Jerod-Eddie
(JR-2L)

X
LDE

WR-X

#8 Jeff Fuller
(JR-2L)

#4 Brandal Jackson
(SO-1L)

WR-Y

#25 Ryan Swope
(SO-1L)

#5 Kenric McNeal
(SO-1L)

LT

#76 Luke Joeckel
(FR-HS)

#63 Cedric Ogbuehi
(FR-HS)

LG

#65 Evan Eike
(JR-2L)

#51 Jarvis Harrison
(FR-HS)

C

#70 Matt Allen
(SR-1L)

#71 Brian Thomas
(SO-SQ)

RG

#61 Patrick Lewis
(SO-1L)

#77 Shep Klink
(FR-HS)

RT

#75 Jake Matthews
(FR-HS)

#62 Jeffrey Hyde
(SO-1L)

TE

#80 Hutson Prioleau
(FR-RS)

#15 Kenny Brown
(SR-3L)

WR-Z

#7 Uzoma "EZ" Nwachukwu
(SO-1L)

#11 Terrence McCoy
(SR-3L)

RB

#33 Christine Michael
(SO-1L)

#32 Cyrus Gray
(JR-2L)

QB

#1 Jerrad Johnson
(SR-3L)

#17 Ryan Tannehill
(JR-2L)

OFFENSIVE COACHES

Mike Sherman – Head Coach
Tom Rossley – Quarterbacks
Randy Jordan – Running Backs
Troy Walters – Wide Receivers
Jim Turner – Offensive Line

SPECIAL TEAMS

K

#28 Randy Bullock
(JR-2L)
#19 Ross Gilliam
(FR-HS)

P

#39 Jared Jaroszewski
(JR-TR)
#26 Ken Wood
(JR-1L)

PR

#5 Kenric McNeal
(SO-1L)
#7 Nate Askew
(FR-HS)

KR

#32 Cyrus Gray
(JR-2L)
#5 Kenric McNeal
(SO-1L)

KR

#25 Ryan Swope
(SO-1L)
#7 Nate Askew
(FR-HS)

DEFENSE [OVERVIEW]

When defensive coordinator Joe Kines resigned following the 2009 season, Mike Sherman turned to Air Force's Tim DeRuyter as a replacement and gave the up and comer one gigantic task – bring the Wrecking Crew back to Aggieland.

The DeRuyter effect is in full force in College Station, and while the proof is in the pudding and we won't know whether or not the defense has truly turned the corner until late September, the early returns have been extremely positive.

Switching to the 3-4 has brought back a crucial element that's been missing from Aggie defenses of recent years – speed. And thanks to Sherman's rebuilding effort on the recruiting trail, there's finally an element of depth to the defense as well. What was expected to be a glaring weakness for the Aggies – the defensive line – suddenly looks like one of the strengths of the unit, thanks in large part to the arrival of new d-line coach Terrell Williams and the maturation of players such as Lucas Patterson, Toney Jerod-Eddie and Eddie Brown.



TIM DERUYTER (DEFENSIVE COORDINATOR)

1ST SEASON AT TEXAS A&M (19 YEARS AS A COLLEGE COACH)

When the Texas A&M defense takes the field this fall, they'll have a new look courtesy of new defensive coordinator Tim DeRuyter. Also the assistant head coach for the Aggies, DeRuyter served the previous three years as the defensive coordinator and safeties coach at the Air Force Academy, his alma mater. DeRuyter's 3-4 defensive scheme relies on pressure, attack-style philosophies with multiple looks.

DEFENSE [DEFENSIVE LINE]

The Coach

TERRELL WILLIAMS (1st year)

The former Purdue DL coach has reenergized the Aggie d-line.



The Starters

EDDIE BROWN, NT (#19)

6-0, 295, JR-2L

Bounced between positions this fall, before emerging as the likely starter at nose tackle.

TONY JEROD-EDDIE, DE (#83)

6-5, 300, JR-2L

One of the Aggies' most consistent linemen is assured a starting job at DE if he's healthy.

LUCAS PATTERSON, DE (#77)

6-4, 295, SR-3L

The most experienced player on the d-line will probably start at DE and play some NT as well.

First off the Bench

KIRBY ENNIS (#42)

6-4, 280, SO-1L

He will play a lot if he is fully recovered from offseason surgery and stays healthy.

In the Rotation

STEPHEN BARRERA (SO-1L, #64), BEN BASS (JR-SQ, #90), JONATHAN MATHIS (JR-TR, #92), SPENCER NEALY (SO-1L, #99)



Battles to Watch

Competition is a beautiful thing. When the Aggies switched to a 3-4 alignment on defense, there were suddenly fewer spots to go around on the defensive line. Lo and behold, the cream was forced to rise to the top. Senior Lucas Patterson and juniors Tony Jerod-Eddie and Eddie Brown emerged as the top three candidates during the first part of fall camp, but will have to fend off a bevy of hungry newcomers as the season begins.

A rejuvenated Ben Bass re-entered the Aggie program this summer after becoming academically ineligible and having to earn back his scholarship (and the respect of the A&M coaches). He managed to do just that, and has quickly become one of the top young defenders on the roster.

Former offensive lineman Stephen Barrera managed to make a hard push for playing time during fall camp as well, and should challenge for playing time at one of the end spots. The three Louisiana freshmen, Brandon Jackson, Ivan Robinson and Gavin Stansbury bring an element of length and athleticism to the line. Two-thirds of that trio have a chance to hit the field this fall as well.

Preseason Grade

Defensive line has been regarded as a weak spot over the past few years, but this unit has the talent, experience and depth to change all that.

Top 5 DL of All Time

1. JACOB GREEN (1977-79)

Two-time All-American and DL sack leader.

2. RAY CHILDRESS (1981-84)

Has the most tackles for a d-lineman.

3. SAM ADAMS (1991-93)

SI's national defensive player of the year.

4. TY WARREN (1999-02)

13th overall pick in 2003 NFL Draft.

5. BRANDON MITCHELL (1992-95)

Was a semifinalist for the Lombardi Award.



DEFENSE [FIVE NEW FACES TO KNOW]



BEN BASS, DL (#90)

A true success story, Bass has returned to the Aggies after becoming academically ineligible over a year ago. He's returned with a vengeance, often running with the first team unit throughout fall camp. He might not technically be a "new" face, but we're certain you're not going to recognize this Ben Bass.

TONY HURD, JR., S/CB (#4)

Though small in stature, Toney Hurd, Jr. is big on ability. A physical defender, Hurd has tremendous upper body strength and loves to punish wide receivers coming across the middle of the field. Tim DeRuyter has described Hurd as too good to keep on the sideline.

CORYELL JUDIE, CB (#5)

Like Bass, Judie isn't technically a new face, but a knee injury sidelined Judie for what should have been his A&M debut last fall. He struggled towards the beginning of

fall camp, but when injuries opened up an opportunity to run with the first team, Judie seized it and showed why he was such a highly touted defender two years ago.

DEMONTRE MOORE, JOKER (#94)

When Demontre Moore committed to the Aggies prior to his senior season, he was an under-the-radar recruit that few had heard of. Now, he's arguably the most impressive freshman defender on the Aggie roster. Long and agile, Moore plays with a mean streak, and is certain to see the field this fall.

IVAN ROBINSON, DL (#89)

Of the three freshman defensive linemen from Louisiana, Robinson has been the most physically imposing thus far. He's not the most polished, but his combination of strength, speed and athleticism has given fits to even the most experienced Aggie offensive linemen.

DEFENSE [LINEBACKER]



The Coaches

DAT NGUYEN (1st year, Inside LB)

The favorite son returns to coach the position where he starred at A&M.

NICK TOTH (1st year, Outside LB)

Played for and coached with Tim DeRuyter in the 3-4 scheme.

The Starters

MICHAEL HODGES, ILB (#37)

6-0, 226, SR-3L

Solid linebacker in the middle will be key to stopping the run.

VON MILLER, JOKER (#40)

6-3, 243, SR-3L

The preseason Big 12 Defensive Player of the Year should shine in Tim DeRuyter's 3-4 scheme.

SEAN PORTER, OLB (#10)

6-2, 220, SO-1L

Expected to start if healthy, but will have to hold off fellow sophomore Jonathan Stewart.

GARRICK WILLIAMS, ILB (#8)

6-2, 234, JR-2L

Has turned into one of the real leaders of the Aggie defense and will be all over the field.

First off the Bench

JONATHAN STEWART (#11)

6-4, 235, SO-1L

Should see the field a bunch this season and may even work his way into the starting lineup.

Key Battle

SEAN PORTER (#10)	VS.	JONATHAN STEWART (#11)
6-2, 220, SO-1L	MEASURABLES	6-4, 235, SO-1L
Arlington HS (Arlington, TX)	HIGH SCHOOL	Byrd HS (Shreveport, LA)
First-team All-District honors as a senior	ACCOLADES	Honorable mention all-state as a senior
42 TAC, 1 SACK, 4 TFL	LAST SEASON	28 TAC, 1 TFL, 1 PBU
Tallied at least three tackles in 10 of 12 games in 2009	NOTABLE	Started seven games at outside linebacker as a true freshman in 2009
EDGE: Porter. Both players have made huge strides since playing in every game last season as true freshmen. This battle could continue throughout the season, which would be great news for the A&M defense.		

In the Two-Deep

KYLE MANGAN (SO-1L, #18), **DEMONTRE MOORE** (FR-HS, #94), **DOMONIQUE PATTERSON** (FR-HS, #23)

Records Watch

CAREER SACKS

Aaron Wallace (1986-89)	42
Jacob Green (1977-79)	37
John Roper (1985-88)	36
Marcus Buckley (1990-92)	29
Ray Childress (1981-84)	25
Roylin Bradley (1997-00)	24
> Von Miller (2007-)	22.5

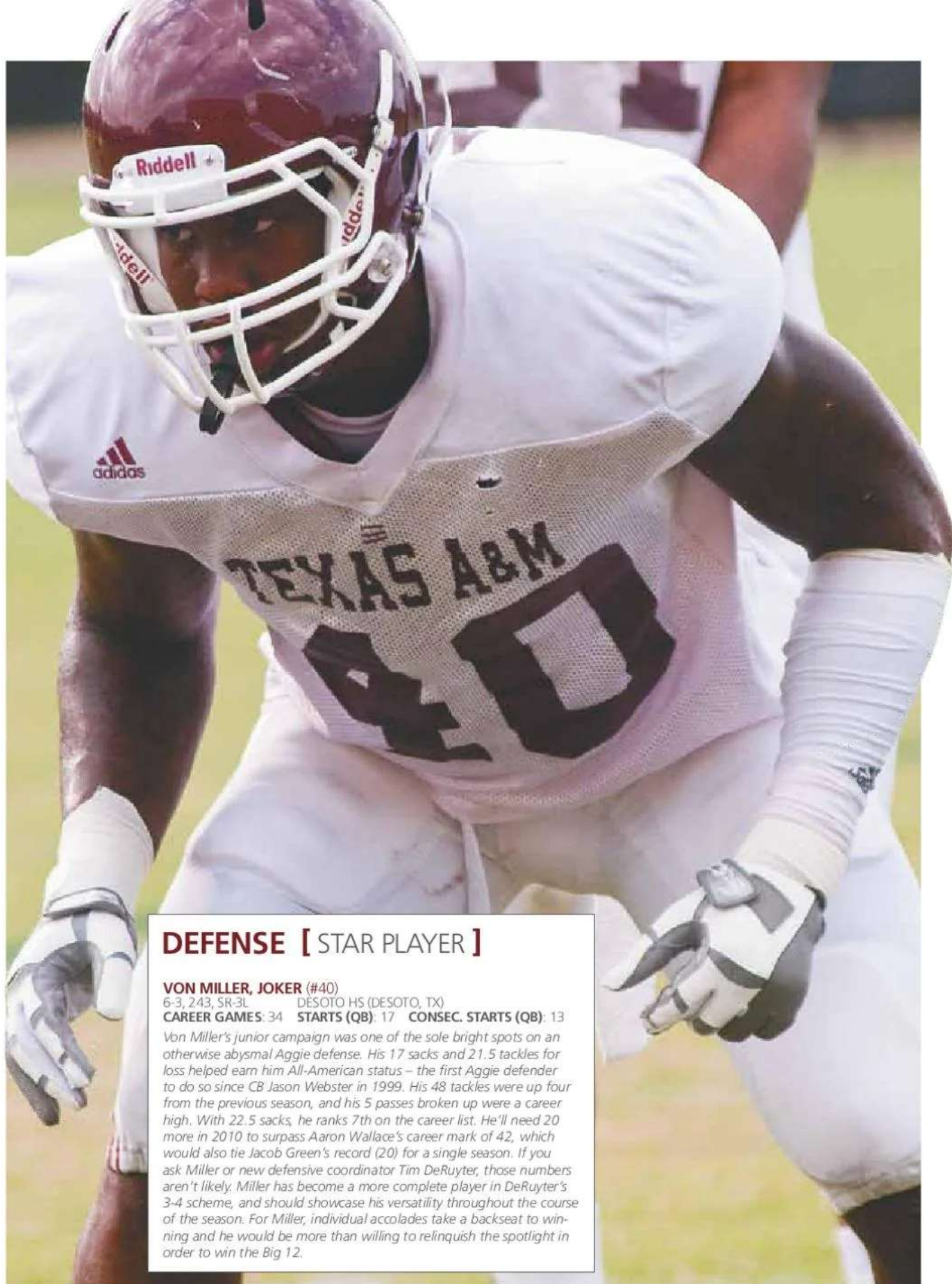
Preseason Grade

The starters are solid if not spectacular, but the depth is a little thin and inexperienced.

B

Top 10 LBs of All Time

- DAT NGUYEN** (1995-98)
Lombardi Award winner and All-American.
- JOHNNY HOLLAND** (1983-86)
Two-time All-American is second in career tackles.
- AARON WALLACE** (1986-89)
Holds the school record for career sacks.
- ED SIMONINI** (1972-75)
All-American is fourth in career tackles.
- JOHN ROPER** (1985-88)
Made 15 sacks in back-to-back seasons.
- BILL HOBBS** (1965-68)
- MARCUS BUCKLEY** (1989-92)
- KEITH MITCHELL** (1993-96)
- QUENTIN CORYATT** (1989-91)
- ROBERT JACKSON** (1973-76)



DEFENSE [STAR PLAYER]

VON MILLER, JOKER (#40)

6-3, 243, SR-3L DESOTO HS (DESOTO, TX)

CAREER GAMES: 34 STARTS (QB): 17 CONSEC. STARTS (QB): 13

Von Miller's junior campaign was one of the sole bright spots on an otherwise abysmal Aggie defense. His 17 sacks and 21.5 tackles for loss helped earn him All-American status – the first Aggie defender to do so since CB Jason Webster in 1999. His 48 tackles were up four from the previous season, and his 5 passes broken up were a career high. With 22.5 sacks, he ranks 7th on the career list. He'll need 20 more in 2010 to surpass Aaron Wallace's career mark of 42, which would also tie Jacob Green's record (20) for a single season. If you ask Miller or new defensive coordinator Tim DeRuyter, those numbers aren't likely. Miller has become a more complete player in DeRuyter's 3-4 scheme, and should showcase his versatility throughout the course of the season. For Miller, individual accolades take a backseat to winning and he would be more than willing to relinquish the spotlight in order to win the Big 12.



DEFENSE [STRENGTH]

It's hard to believe a position that was utterly depleted a year ago could be the strength of the defense this season, but that's exactly the case at cornerback for the Aggies. Junior Terrence Frederick has emerged from a lowly touted, last minute switch from Louisville to arguably the defense's second best player, behind All-American Von Miller. Frederick blanketed the Aggie wide receiving corps throughout fall camp, almost always in perfect position, even when bested.

Frederick has one of the starting spots locked up, and there's a heated three-way battle for the other starter's role that might not be resolved until midway through the season. Sophomore Dustin Harris looked like the clear-cut favorite to lock down the field opposite Frederick until nagging injuries kept him sidelined and opened up the door for competition.

Former JUCO standout Coryell Judie shows flashes of brilliance when he runs with the first team unit, but seems to disappear when running with any other group. It will be interesting to see what he can do once the lights come on. We tend to think he'll shine.

Another junior, Lionel Smith, continues to do all the little things well. No player has benefited from the tutelage of cornerbacks coach Charles McMillian more than Smith.

Regardless of who starts the first game opposite Frederick, all of these talented corners will play a lot this season.



DEFENSE [DEFENSIVE BACK]

The Coach

CHARLES MCMILLIAN (3rd year)
Has served as a defensive backs coach for the past 15 seasons on the collegiate level.



The Starters

TERRENCE FREDERICK, CB (#7)
5-10, 184, JR-2L

Is the most consistent cornerback on campus and excels in pass coverage and run support.

TRENT HUNTER, SS (#1)
5-10, 190, JR-2L

He is the quarterback of the defense and practically a coach on the field.

CORYELL JUDIE, CB (#5)
5-11, 188, JR-RS

Has the talent to be a lockdown cornerback, but needs more consistency.

STEVEN TERRELL, FS (#21)
5-10, 197, SO-1L

Fits right in at safety in Tim DeRuyter's defense.

First off the Bench

DUSTIN HARRIS (#22)
6-0, 175, SO-1L

If healthy, he will push for the starting job that he held for 11 of 12 games last season.

In the Two-Deep

STEVEN CAMPBELL (SO-1L, #2),
TONEY HURD, JR (FR-HS, #4),
LIONEL SMITH (JR-1L, #3)

Key Battle

DUSTIN HARRIS (#22)	VS.	CORYELL JUDIE (#5)
6-0, 175, SO-1L	MEASURABLES	5-11, 188, JR-RS
40 TAC, 1 INT, 1 SACK, 2 TFL, 2 PBU	LAST SEASON	Redshirted due to injury
40 TAC, 1 INT, 1 SACK, 2 TFL, 2 PBU	CAREER STATS	82 TAC, 7 INT (2 years of JUCO)
Was the only true freshman to start on defense in the first 10 games in 2009	NOTABLE	Junior College All-American in 2008
EDGE: Judie. If Harris was healthy, he would probably have the upper hand having started almost every game as a true freshman last season. However, Judie was brought in from JUCO for a reason. If he turns out to be as good as advertised, it will be tough for Harris to earn the starting job back.		

Preseason Grade

B-

Depth and health are concerns, especially at safety, but there is a lot of talent that could make this unit successful.



Top 10 DBs of All Time

- 1. KEVIN SMITH** (1988-91)
All-American and interception record holder (20).
- 2. LESTER HAYES** 1973-76)
All-American is second all time in interceptions.
- 3. PAT THOMAS** (1972-75)
Two-time All-American.
- 4. PATRICK BATES** (1989-92)
All-American and finalist for Thorpe Award.
- 5. AARON GLENN** (1992-93)
Thorpe Award runner-up and SWC Defensive POY.
- 6. DAVE ELMENDORF** (1968-70)
- 7. RAY MICKENS** (1992-95)
- 8. JASON WEBSTER** (1996-99)
- 9. SAMMY DAVIS** (1999-02)
- 10. TOMMY MAXWELL** (1965-68)



DEFENSE [WEAKNESS]

It took less than two weeks into fall camp for the Aggies to find out just how thin they were at safety. When junior Trent Hunter and sophomore Steven Campbell were sidelined with injuries, the only remaining scholarship player with any experience was sophomore Steven Terrell – a converted cornerback from a year ago.

Walk-ons Blaine Cheatham, and Louie Swope (brother of A&M wide receiver Ryan Swope) competed with true freshmen Clay Honneycutt and Malcolme Kennedy for the other starting role.

Unfortunately, despite their best efforts, none of them appeared anywhere near being ready for Big 12 play. We will say, however, that Swope looks like an absolute steal in last year's recruiting class, after turning down a scholarship offer from SMU to become a preferred walk-on for the Aggies.

Searching for depth, the coaches turned to true freshman Toney Hurd, Jr. about midway through fall camp to see if he could make the transition from cornerback. Fortunately for the Aggies, Hurd was a natural at safety and will undoubtedly see the field this year and make a huge impact on the A&M defense.

Terrell had an absolutely tremendous camp, showing off his 4.4 speed in pass coverage and surprising physicality against the run. And Hunter, when healthy, was an ever better version of his old self, looking bigger, faster and more skilled in coverage.

Campbell has great size and speed, but just can't seem to stay healthy. If Terrell, Hunter, Hurd and Campbell are all able to play, then the Aggies shouldn't be in too much trouble this season. If one goes down, however, things could get interesting.



SPECIAL TEAMS [K, P, KR, PR, DS]

The Starters

BEN BREDTHAUER, DS (#95)

6-4, 257, SO-1L

He's been consistent at the position where you never want to hear your name called.

RANDY BULLOCK, K (#28)

5-9, 205, JR-2L

Struggled some with consistency, especially from long range, but is by far the best on the team.

CYRUS GRAY, KR (#32)

5-10, 198, JR-2L

He already holds the record for most kickoff returns in a career and he's only a junior.

JARED JAROSZEWSKI, P (#39)

6-2, 208, JR-TR

Has been the most consistent in practice, but will need to show it in games to keep the job.

KENRIC MCNEAL, PR (#5)

6-1, 180, SO-1L

Battled Nate Askeew for punt return duties, likely earning the starting nod.

RYAN SWOPE, KR (#25)

6-0, 204, FR-1L

Started returning kicks towards the end of last season alongside Gray and quickly locked down the job.

First off the Bench

NATE ASKEEW, PR (#9)

6-4, 223, FR-HS

Has great size and speed and has been very impressive returning punts in fall camp.

Key Battle

NATE ASKEEW (#9)	VS.	KENRIC MCNEAL (#5)
6-4, 223, FR-HS, WR	MEASURABLES	6-1, 180, SO-1L, WR
Madison HS (San Antonio, TX)	HIGH SCHOOL	Spring HS (Spring, TX)
Honorable mention all-state selection as a senior	ACCOLADES	First-team All-District as a quarterback
Ran two punts back for touchdowns as a senior	NOTABLE	Saw action in 10 games as a freshman, recording 6 receptions for 97 yards and 1 touchdown
EDGE: McNeal. Askeew has shown tremendous upside and has an unmatched combination of speed and size, but McNeal will likely be the first option at punt returner because of experience and consistency.		

Records Watch

CAREER KICKOFF RETURN YARDS

> Cyrus Gray (2008-)	1,811
Rod Harris (1985-88).....	1,209



Preseason Grade

D+

For the most part, special teams were a struggle last season. There should be improvement across the board this year, but this will be the team's biggest concern until they show it on the field.

Top 5 Specialists of All Time

- SHANE LECHLER, P (1996-99)**
Two-time All-American now a regular All-Pro
- TONY FRANKLIN, K (1975-78)**
Two-time All-American still holds NCAA records.
- ROD HARRIS, KR/PR (1985-88)**
Second all time in kick and punt return yards.
- LEELAND MCELROY, KR (1993-95)**
Named an All-American as a kick returner.
- DICK TODD, PR (1936-38)**
Still holds the record for most punt return yards.



DEFENSE [DIFFERENCE MAKER]

JONATHAN STEWART, OLB (#11)

6-4, 235, SO-1L BYRD HS (SHREVEPORT, LA)

CAREER GAMES: 13 STARTS: 7 CONSECUTIVE STARTS: 0

The most heralded defender of the 2009 recruiting class struggled throughout the course of his freshman year last season. Whether it was the transition to the 3-4 alignment, another year of experience under his belt or a combination of both, something triggered the light bulb to come on for the sophomore defender. Stewart swarmed ball carriers, flew around the edges of the offensive line and even managed to excel in pass coverage throughout fall camp. Along with Von Miller, Sean Porter and Demontre Moore, Stewart will give the Aggies tremendous speed, length and ability on the edges.

TEXAS A&M FOOTBALL [2010 ROSTER]

NAME	POS	HT	WT	CL-EXP	HOMETOWN/HIGH SCHOOL
1 Hunter, Trent	QB	5-10	190	JR-2L	Katy, Texas/Katy
1 Johnson, Jerrod	QB	6-5	245	SR-3L	Humble, Texas/Humble
2 Campbell, Steven	QB	6-0	202	SO-1L	Houston, Texas/Jessey Village
3 Showers, Jamell	QB	6-1	220	FR-HS	Killeen, Texas/Shoemaker
3 Smith, Lionel	QB	6-0	190	JR-1L	Houston, Texas/Blairstown
4 Hurd Jr., Tony	QB	5-9	190	FR-HS	Missouri City, Texas/Fort Bend Marshall
4 Jackson, Brandal	WR	6-1	182	SO-1L	Nacatocha, Texas/Nacatocha
5 McNeal, Kenric	WR	6-1	188	SO-1L	Spring, Texas/Spring
5 Judie, Conell	DB	5-11	188	JR-RS	Marlin, Texas/Marlin/Front Scott C C
6 Woodley, Luke	QB	6-2	192	FR-HS	Dallas, Texas/Highland Park
7 Nwachukwu, Uzoma	WR	6-0	194	SO-1L	Allen, Texas/Allen
7 Frederick, Terrence	DB	5-10	184	JR-2L	Katy, Texas/Katy
8 Williams, Garick	LB	6-2	234	JR-2L	DeSoto, Texas/DeSoto
8 Fuller, Jeff	WR	6-4	215	JR-2L	McKinney, Texas/Boyd
9 Thomas, Charlie	DB	6-1	212	FR-RS	Beaumont, Texas/Central
9 Askew, Nate	WR	6-4	223	FR-HS	San Antonio, Texas/Adison
10 Beyer, Cody	WR	6-1	182	SR-1L	San Antonio, Texas/Smithson Valley
10 Porter, Sean	LB	6-2	220	SO-1L	Schertz, Texas/Clements
11 Stewart, Jonathan	Joker	6-4	235	SO-1L	Shreveport, La./Byrd
11 McCoy, Terrence	WR	6-4	213	SR-3L	Midland, Texas/Lee
13 Doornan, Tommy	TE	6-2	237	SO-1L	North Richland Hills, Texas/Birdville
13 Gardner, Desmond	DB	5-10	190	FR-RS	Fort Arthur, Texas/Memorial
14 Honeycutt, Clay	DB	6-2	200	FR-HS	Dickinson, Texas/Dickinson
15 Furch, Keon	WR	6-2	210	SO-SQ	Paris, Texas/Paris
15 Brown, Kenny	WR	6-3	227	SR-3L	Oklahoma City, Okla./Putnam City North
16 Joekel, Matt	QB	6-4	227	FR-HS	Arlington, Texas/Arlington
16 Williams, Lekeandrick	WR	5-8	170	FR-HS	Sharpsburg, Texas/Sharpsburg
17 Catfish, Chris	DB	6-3	219	SR-1L	San Antonio, Texas/Madison
17 Tannehill, Ryan	QB/MR	6-4	219	JR-2L	Big Spring, Texas/Big Spring
18 Mangum, Kyle	LB	6-2	230	SO-1L	Brenham, Texas/Brenham
18 O'Quinn, Patrick	QB	6-2	208	FR-RS	College Station, Texas/A&M Consolidated
19 Gamo, Winston	TE	6-4	228	SO-SQ	Highland Park, Texas/Highland Park/SMU
19 Brown Jr., Eddie	DL	6-0	295	JR-2L	Waller, Texas/Waller
20 Stephens, Bradley	RB	5-10	201	JR-2L	McAllen, Texas/Memorial
21 Lanothe, Michael	TE	6-3	231	SO-1L	New Iberia, La./New Iberia
21 Terrell, Steven	DB	5-10	197	SO-1L	Allen, Texas/Allen
22 Harris, Dustin	DB	6-0	175	SO-1L	Ulmstrong, Texas/Ulmstrong
23 Patterson, Dominique	LB	6-0	227	FR-HS	Dallas, Texas/Sydney
23 Malena, Ben	RB	5-8	195	FR-HS	Cedar Hill, Texas/Cedar Hill
24 Randle, Taylor	WR	6-0	190	JR-SQ	Richmond, Texas/Foster
24 Johnson, Malcolm	LB	6-2	196	FR-RS	Klein, Texas/Collins
25 Swope, Ryan	WR	6-0	204	SO-1L	Austin, Texas/Westlake
26 Wood, Ken	P	5-10	191	JR-1L	Spokane, Wash./University/Montana
27 Jones, Mlster	RB	6-2	205	FR-HS	Littleton, Colorado/Littleton
28 Bullock, Randy	FLK	5-9	205	JR-2L	Klein, Texas/Klein
28 Swope, Louie	DB	5-11	180	FR-HS	Austin, Texas/Westlake
29 Vela, Anthony	RB	5-11	233	SR-2L	Round Rock, Texas/Mitchell
29 Cheatham, Blaine	DB	5-11	185	SO-1L	Aledo, Texas/Aledo
30 Bishop, Don	TE	6-2	220	SR-1L	Katy, Texas/Katy
31 Seres, Kyle	FLK	6-2	200	FR-RS	Spring, Texas/Northland Christian
32 Gray, Cyrus	RB	5-10	198	JR-2L	DeSoto, Texas/DeSoto
33 Michael, Christine	RB	5-11	215	SO-1L	Beaumont, Texas/West Brook
33 Thompson, DeAndre	DB	6-1	187	SO-SQ	Allen, Texas/Allen
34 Tolliver, Jay	RB	5-10	212	SO-SQ	Marshall, Texas/Timberview
35 Rodgers, Lee	WR	6-1	185	FR-HS	Katy, Texas/Taylor
35 Cavanaugh, Ricky	LB	6-2	225	JR-1L	Houston, Texas/LBI
37 Hodges, Michael	LB	6-0	226	SR-1L	Helotes, Texas/O'Connor
37 Graham, Garrett	FB	5-10	208	FR-HS	Marshall, Texas/Marshall

NAME	POS	HT	WT	CL-EXP	HOMETOWN/HIGH SCHOOL
38 Thigpen, Kollen	DB	6-1	217	JR-SQ	Hondo, Texas/Hondo
39 Jaroszewski, Jared	P	6-2	208	JR-TR	Seguin, Texas/Navarro/Blinn JC
40 Miller, Von	Joker	6-3	243	SR-3L	DeSoto, Texas/DeSoto
41 Fields, Connor	DL	6-3	228	FR-HS	Arlington, Texas/Arlington
41 Thompson, DeMaurier	DB	6-1	196	SR-1L	Dallas, Texas/W.T. White
42 Lantila, Joe	FB	5-9	205	FR-HS	Arlington, Texas/Martin
42 Ernie, Kirby	DL	6-4	280	SO-1L	Huntsville, Texas/Huntsville
43 Arterburn, Aaron	LB	6-2	233	SO-1L	Rockwall, Texas/Rockwall
44 Worledge, Andrew	DL	6-1	275	SO-SQ	Lexington, Texas/Lexington
45 Sherman, Matt	TE	6-1	209	SO-SQ	Houston, Texas/St. Thomas
47 Russell, Caleb	LB	6-2	231	SO-SQ	Midlothian, Texas/Midlothian
47 Ortiz, Logan	PK	5-9	185	JR-TR	Ft. Leavenworth, Kan./Leavenworth/Butler CC
48 Epperson, Ryan	P	6-2	191	SO-1L	Keller, Texas/Keller
48 Weaver, Andrew	Joker	6-2	242	FR-RS	Waco, Texas/Waco
49 Gilliam, Ross	K	6-6	195	FR-HS	Owensboro, Ky./Owensboro
49 Jackson, Brandon	DL	6-4	252	FR-HS	Shreveport, La./Frangel Christian
51 Hartson, Jarvis	DL	6-4	330	FR-HS	Navasota, Texas/Navasota
52 Freeman, Alex	DS	6-1	236	FR-HS	Austin, Texas/Westwood
53 Ortega, Justin	DS	5-10	235	FR-HS	San Antonio, Texas/Reagan
55 Dube, Chase	DL	6-1	290	FR-HS	Lexington, Texas/Lexington
59 Woodum, Allen	DL	6-3	290	SO-SQ	Conroe, Texas/Conroe
61 Lewis, Patrick	DL	6-2	303	SO-1L	Lafayette, La./East St. John
62 Hyde, Jeffrey	DL	6-5	310	SO-1L	Coleville, Texas/Covenant Christian
63 Ogundu, Cedric	DL	6-5	275	FR-HS	Allen, Texas/Allen
64 Barrea, Stephen	DL	6-5	290	SO-1L	Clear Lake, Texas/Clear Lake
65 Eike, Evan	DL	6-4	304	JR-2L	Bryan, Texas/Bryan
67 Villaverde, Joseph	DL	6-4	308	JR-2L	Jacksonville, Texas/Jacksonville
70 Allen, Matt	DL	6-2	295	SR-1L	Spring, Texas/Klein Collins/ISU
71 Thomas, Brian	DL	6-3	303	SO-SQ	Pearland, Texas/Pearland
72 Ayns, Josh	DL	6-4	270	SO-SQ	Eulless, Texas/Trinity
72 Starbury, Gavin	DL	6-4	260	FR-HS	Franklin, La./Franklin
73 Scales, Rhonae	DL	6-6	317	FR-RS	Killeen, Texas/Killeen
74 Baker, Danny	DL	6-5	306	JR-2L	Sugar Land, Texas/Ekins
75 Matthews, Jake	DL	6-5	295	FR-HS	Missouri City, Texas/Ekins
76 Joekel, Luke	DL	6-6	304	FR-HS	Arlington, Texas/Arlington
77 Kinkle, Shep	DL	6-7	292	FR-HS	Katy, Texas/Katy
77 Patterson, Lucas	DL	6-4	295	SR-3L	Kingsville, Texas/King
78 Gramling, Garrett	DL	6-6	325	FR-HS	Denton, Texas/Ryan
79 Childress, Wells	DL	6-4	245	FR-RS	Houston, Texas/Kinkaid
80 Proleau, Hutson	TE	6-4	251	FR-RS	Fort Worth, Texas/All Saints Episcopal
82 Adame, David	WR	6-1	210	SO-SQ	Mission, Texas/Sharp
83 Jerod-Eddie, Tony	DL	6-5	300	JR-2L	DeSoto, Texas/DeSoto
84 Walker, Michael	WR	6-2	200	FR-RS	Austin, Texas/Westlake
86 Gardner, Seth	WR	6-4	195	FR-HS	Cayuga, Texas/Cayuga
87 Hicks, Nehemiah	TE	6-4	248	FR-HS	Dallas, Texas/Highland Park/Arkansas
88 Lamarcus, Gaston	WR	5-6	184	FR-RS	Nacatocha, Texas/Navasota
89 Robinson, Ivan	DL	6-3	270	FR-HS	Longview, La./South Beauregard
90 Bass, Ben	DL	6-5	280	JR-SQ	Plano, Texas/West
91 Rhoadbeck, Rob	DL	6-2	260	FR-HS	Johnstown, Ohio/Northridge
92 Mathis, Jonathan	DL	6-2	285	JR-TR	Houston, Texas/Vestfield/Blinn JC
93 McDuff, Jomo	DL	6-5	215	FR-RS	Dallas, Texas/Kimball
94 Moore, Darnonte	DL	6-4	248	FR-HS	Rowlett, Texas/Rowlett
95 Breidtrauer, Ben	DS	6-4	257	SO-1L	Houston, Texas/Stratford
96 Ebbitt, Michael	DL	6-4	275	JR-SQ	Westlake Village, Calif./Oaks Christian
97 Williams, Cody	DL	6-4	264	SR-2L	Longview, Texas/Longview
99 Neely, Spencer	DL	6-5	272	SO-1L	San Antonio, Texas/Reagan

Stephen F Austin Lumberjacks

Last Season: 10-3, 6-1 Southland

WHEN

Saturday, September 4 at 6 pm

WHERE

College Station (Kyle Field)

SERIES RECORD

A&M 2, SFA 0

KEY QUESTION

Will the new look Aggie defense live up to the excitement generated during fall camp?

WHAT TO EXPECT

Parts of it won't be pretty as the team works out the kinks that come with a first game, but overall the Ags should flex their muscles easily.

PLAYER TO WATCH

LB Jabara Williams (SR) – A preseason DII All-American, Williams enters his final season with more than 300 career tackles, including 19 for a loss and 5.5 sacks.

FUN FACT

Despite the close proximity between the two universities, the Aggies and Lumberjacks haven't played each other since 1935. Texas A&M won that meeting by a score of 37-6.



Louisiana Tech Bulldogs

Last Season: 4-8, 3-5 WAC

WHEN

Saturday, September 11 at 6 pm

WHERE

College Station (Kyle Field)

SERIES RECORD

A&M 9, Louisiana Tech 0

KEY QUESTION

Which Louisiana Tech squad will show up? The one that got blown out by Nevada, or the one that nearly upset LSU in Baton Rouge?

WHAT TO EXPECT

The Bulldogs were better than their record last season, but still don't have the personnel to slow down the Aggie offense. The Ags should win by a bunch.

PLAYER TO WATCH

QB Ross Jenkins (SR) – A native Texan, Jenkins threw for 2,095 yards and 17 touchdowns during his junior campaign, completing 59% of his passes along the way.

FUN FACT

Former A&M assistant coaches Mark Tommerdahl and Stan Eggen of the Franchione era will return to the sidelines of Kyle Field. Tommerdahl coaches special teams and inside wide receivers for the Bulldogs, while Eggen serves as the team's defensive line coach.



Florida Int. Golden Panthers

Last Season: 3-9, 3-5 Sun Belt

WHEN

Saturday, September 18 at 6 pm

WHERE

College Station (Kyle Field)

SERIES RECORD

First meeting between A&M and FIU

KEY QUESTION

Will the Aggies be able to fine-tune all aspects of their game before heading into conference play and the annual showdown against Arkansas?

WHAT TO EXPECT

FIU didn't do anything very well last season, and is arguably the weakest opponent on the schedule. Look for Ryan Tannehill or one of the freshman quarterbacks to play early in the second half.

PLAYER TO WATCH

WR T.Y. Hilton (JR) – Led the team with 57 catches, 632 receiving yards and five touchdowns. Returned 22 kicks for a team-best 633 yards and an average of 28.8, the highest in FIU history.

FUN FACT

The Aggies and Golden Panthers have never faced one another on the football field. FIU is led by former Miami Hurricane Mario Cristobal, who served on former head coach Larry Coker's staff.



Oklahoma State Cowboys

Last Season: 9-4, 6-2 Big 12

WHEN

Thursday, September 30 at 6:30 pm (ESPN)

WHERE

Stillwater, OK (Boone Pickens Stadium)

SERIES RECORD

A&M 17, OSU 8

KEY QUESTION

Will the Aggies finally be able to win a crucial, nationally televised matchup?

WHAT TO EXPECT

On paper, the Aggies should be favored to win this all-important Big 12 opener. Boone Pickens Stadium will be raucous, and a victory for the good guys will not come easily.

PLAYER TO WATCH

RB Kendall Hunter (SR) – Hunter was a first-team All-American and also earned All-Big 12 First Team honors as a sophomore in 2008. He racked up 1,555 yards and 16 touchdowns carrying the football in '08 and recorded nine 100-yard rushing games.

FUN FACT

Tim DeRuyter and new Oklahoma State offensive coordinator Dana Holgorsen squared off in the 2009 Armed Forces Bowl, where DeRuyter's defense shut down the high-flying Holgorsen offense.



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THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT THE 2010 AGGIE UNIFORMS

BY BRIAN DAVIS '01

1] The concept for this year's uniforms actually came from senior quarterback Jerrod Johnson. As the voice of the team, he worked with the equipment staff to make some subtle changes from last year. They wanted to keep the home jersey more classic and conservative. They decided to keep the grey piping to be consistent, but got rid of the white piping and removed the three stripes off the side of the pants and added pinstripes.

2] The jerseys are primarily made of a stretch Cordura fabric which gives them more of a dull appearance compared to the shinier pants made of lycra polyester. This is why you won't see the Aggies don all maroon uniforms. The maroon colors do not match between the two different materials.

3] Each player is measured for their jersey. The sizes range from 40 to 52, but most of the Aggies are in the 44 to 48 range.



4] On the front of the jersey, the Adidas logo was moved to the center above Texas A&M. Last year it was on the right chest.

6] The Aggies use anywhere from 1,000 to 1,500 shoes each year. That includes a variety of shoes for game and practice situations as well as shoes for running, working out, staff use, etc. At one time, the Aggies used as many as 3,000 shoes in a season. That number was cut in half thanks to the invention of field turf, the construction of the McFerrin indoor practice facility and Texas Tech finally replacing their traditional AstroTurf.

5] The helmets will have white facemasks again this year as they have for most of the modern era of Aggie football. The team switched to maroon facemasks during the last few years under Coach Slocum before reverting back to white shortly into Coach Franchione's tenure.

7] Junior offensive lineman Joe Villavisencio's size 18 shoe is the largest on the team. In recent history, the smallest shoe size in Aggie football has been size 8 (a few kickers) while the largest was former lineman Brandon Flanigan's size 20. Most manufacturers stop at size 18, so anything larger requires a custom-made shoe.

8] There are basically two types of regular game shoes – a skill shoe and a lineman shoe. It all comes down to the weight of the player. The maximum weight recommended for the skill shoe is 250 pounds. The lineman shoes offer greater support for the larger athletes.

9] Most players make it through a season with just two jerseys (one maroon and one white), but some defensive linemen and linebackers are prone to tears. Hopefully the opponents doing the tearing are getting flagged for holding. The team goes through a lot of the white pants because of grass stains.

10] The new jersey adds the Texas A&M T-Star logo on the back centered between the player's last name and the collar.



11] There is a message inside the collar of both jerseys that likely won't be seen by anyone other than the players on game day. The white jersey's message is "GIG 'EM!" and the maroon jersey's is "HOME OF THE 12TH MAN." In an effort to make the replica jersey's more consistent with the real thing, Adidas proposed including the messages on both jerseys. So when you buy your jersey at a retail store, it will have the same message as the ones the players wear.

12] You won't see the Aggies wear white helmets this year. While they were extremely popular with the players, former players and fans, the unfortunate outcome of the two games with white helmets last year likely means they will stay on the shelf for a while. **AI**

THE STORY OF THE WHITE HELMETS



We tossed around the idea of doing throwback uniforms, but we could not get the logistics together. However, that didn't stop the campus from buzzing about the concept, which led to a lot of players asking us if we were going to do it. They were all really excited about the potential for a throwback game. On the Monday before the Arkansas game, we met with Coach Sherman and decided to try and pull off white helmets for that game. The first shipment came in on Wednesday and the second shipment came in Thursday morning. We had to order from two different manufacturers to get enough helmets in time, which meant two different shades of white. Less than ten people knew what was going on. We intercepted the shipments from UPS and took them to my house. I had helmets everywhere. My assistant, Bryan Gossett, along with two student workers and myself spent Wednesday and Thursday night decaling all the helmets, adding the facemasks, etc. We drove the truck up to Dallas early on Friday and hid the helmets in a room at Cowboy's stadium. Anything done to the helmets was behind closed doors. We finally rolled them out about an hour before the team showed up on Saturday. When the players came in the locker room it was like Christmas morning. It was fun to see them walk in and the light bulb clicked that something was different. Then they all went ballistic. I had players come up and thank me. I just wish the outcome of the game had been different.

—MATT WATSON '95, TEXAS A&M HEAD EQUIPMENT MANAGER

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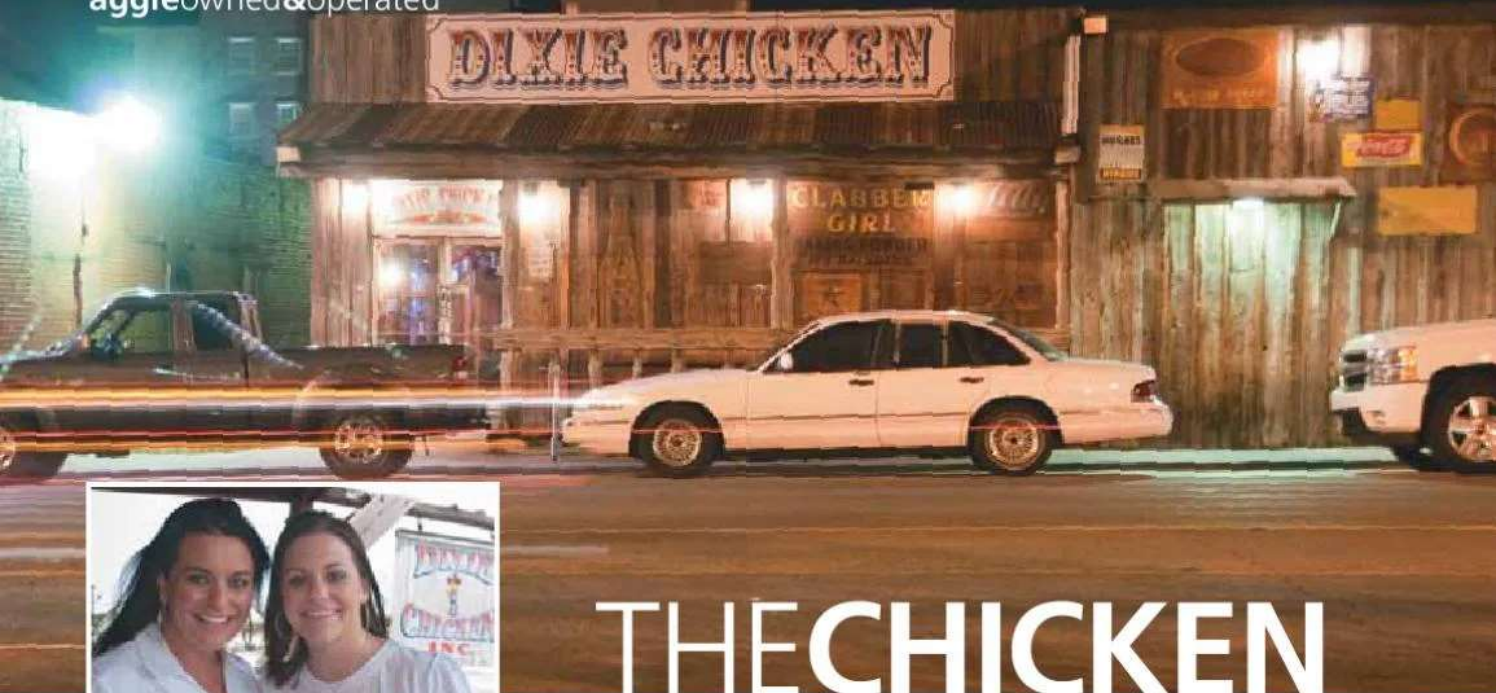
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Nearly 3,000 fans filled the Aggie Soccer Stadium to support the eighth-ranked Texas A&M soccer team in their season opener against two-time defending national champion and No. 1 North Carolina.





THE CHICKEN

BY KATIE MCCONNELL

Not much is more beloved to an Aggie than A&M traditions. Since the campus first opened in 1876, traditions have been made and followed. Aggeland's treasured Dixie Chicken, or "The Chicken" as it is so often called, is a shining example.

In 1974, shortly after Texas A&M was established as coed and the town had been designated as "wet," Don Ganter constructed the Dixie Chicken. Since its beginning, Ganter created a place that was known for its progressive music, tasty eats and hospitality. These days, The Chicken is managed by two of Ganter's daughters – Jennifer and Katy. They believe that The Chicken is what it is because of A&M and they know their dad would agree. What may seem to be a typical Texas bar to the unknowing, The Chicken is one of the staples that binds Aggeland together.

Beyond its deeply, sentimental value to both New and Old Army, the Dixie Chicken serves some of the best food in town. Their mouthwatering burgers have become so popular, in fact, that many people have suggested that the Ganter family should franchise. Their reply is simple. The Dixie Chicken isn't about commercialism, it's about familiarity.

"We won't change The Chicken because former students come back and say, 'I remember sitting right here and this is exactly how it looked,' and they feel comfortable there," Katy said. "We want to keep up with progression, but we don't want to change what The Chicken is known for. It's home to a lot of people."

The sisters grew up at The Chicken. Jennifer often slept in a beer box in the bar as a baby and they even had a bed upstairs.

"We were the only people in high school who had to be at a bar by a certain time in order to meet curfew," Katy added.

Tough love might be the best way to describe Ganter as he didn't give any special treatment to his daughters when it came to the family business. When they were old enough to work, he

made sure they started at the bottom and worked their way up.

"He made sure the managers knew we were the bottom of the barrel," Katy said. "We did everything from scrubbing urinals to unclogging drains. He always said that the manager was the first person there, the last one to leave, and the dirtiest one in the building. He made us be those people."

"It wasn't easy," Jennifer added, "but I think our mom really appreciated that about our dad. It's helped make us who we are today."

Now in its 36th year, the Dixie Chicken has become one of the biggest tourist attractions in Aggeland, drawing in more than just the average fair.

"The Secret Service came and for 3 days they did sweeps and mapped out an exit plan because the President of Panama wanted to come eat at the Dixie Chicken," Katy said. "That's crazy. Why does the President of Panama even know about The Chicken?"

Comedian and TV host Wayne Brady and his crew have also stepped through The Chicken's swinging doors in the hopes of finding out what Texas Toast was.

"We all know it's just thick toast, but they wanted to try it here," Jennifer said.

That's not all. In his commencement speech at A&M in 2008, President George W. Bush said, "Back in my day, I think I would have enjoyed dunking my ring." The president also joked about the absence of his secretary of Defense and former Texas A&M President Robert Gates from the ceremony by saying, "It's not like he's over at the Dixie Chicken."

"We were really excited about that," Jennifer recalled. "I mean, the President of the United States just said 'Dixie Chicken' in his speech."

Regardless of the establishment's status, the Ganter sisters remain humble, completely astonished that the small bar that

"We were the only people in high school who had to be at a bar by a certain time in order to meet curfew."

— KATY (GANTER) JACKSON

their dad built so many years ago is such a sensation. They continue to be amazed to receive phone calls from friends who have seen people wearing Dixie Chicken T-shirts in countries all over the world. Katy is continually taken aback at her father's success.

"It's just very humbling," she said. "We never expected the notoriety. It's just funny that a horseshoer from Dallas started a bar, and this is what it's become."

Besides his flare for business, the sisters attribute everything to their father's love for Texas A&M.

"He just loved A&M, wanted to make his home here, and he wanted to have something to do with the university. He just wanted to make sure he did it right."

The hardest part to all their success, however, is having to do it without their dad at their side. Ganter passed away in November 2004, just days after the Dixie Chicken had its 30th anniversary.

"Even though we'd been running The Chicken for a number of years before he died, we always knew that if we screwed up, he would be there to fix it," they said. "After he passed, decisions kind of stopped us in our tracks."

Though they have noticed the difference between going to work under their father and being in charge, Jennifer and Katy continue to provide the success of the establishment. And, as Don Ganter had hoped, the Dixie Chicken has become a part of tradition, a part of the university, a part of Aggieland and that's enough to make any father proud. **A**

A BONFIRE MEMORY

Our dad stayed out at the site for days after Bonfire fell, hauling wood, doing whatever he could to help. One day he called me and just said, "Fill up the trunk of your car with as many burgers and fries as you can and get them up here." We did that a number of times and I think that's when I really realized how much A&M was a part of my dad. You know, he didn't graduate, but he still bled maroon.

— KATY (GANTER) JACKSON



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GLEN'S GREAT EIGHT

1. Soccer: Texas A&M vs. No. 3 Santa Clara, 1998

Sophomore Amber Reynolds battles the soggy field conditions and a Santa Clara defender for the ball. Glen says: "This might have been the worst standing water on a field that I shot since the infamous t.u. game at Kyle Field and possibly a Baylor game." The Aggies lost the match, 3-0.

Over the next eight issues of AI (Volume 5), we are excited to share eight of Glen Johnson's most memorable moments from photographing all things Aggie. Glen has been the official photographer of Texas A&M Athletics since 1981. Special thanks to Glen for his contribution.





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